FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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PLO OFFICIAL DENIES GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE TO BE FORMED

NC151630Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 May--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met today with Fatah Executive Committee member Khalid al-Hasan. The discussions dealt with the latest developments in the Arab and Lebanese situations and Palestinian views on these matters.

In a statement today, Khalid al-Hasan denied that a decision has been adopted to proclaim a Palestinian government-in-exile soon and that he would participate in such a government.

A Kuwaiti paper said today that a decision had actually been adopted to announce this government, that the proclamation would be made following the return of a Fatah delegation from the Soviet Union, and that part of the current Palestinian contacts with the Arab states was connected with this matter.

KUWAITI PAPER: ISRAELI DEFECTOR JOINS PALESTINIANS

NC140920Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 14 May--The Kuwaiti Newspaper AL-WATAN says in a report from Beirut today that an Israeli soldier escaped from occupied Palestine a month ago and joined the Palestinian resistance. The paper says that Fatah, after interrogating the Israeli soldier, attached him to a Fatah base in southern Lebanon, where he is now working.

ABU JIHAD: NO SUMMIT UNLESS AS-SADAT ENDS INITIATIVE

JN!?1806Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] made a speech the day before yesterday at the graduation ceremony of the class named after martyr Dala al-Mughrabi [leader of the Tel Aviv operation which sparked off the Israeli invasion of Lebanon]. The class was trained under the department of political mobilization and guidance in the Al-'Asifah forces. Brother Abu Jihad said that nobody can affect the path of the Fatah organization because it is tied to freedom of opinion, democracy and the spirit of love. This is the basis of our strength and the cornerstone of four work, our organization and our relations with such Arab countries as Syria. We are endeavoring to renew and develop relations with our Syrian brothers.

Abu Jihad said that the latest meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad dealt with the drawing up of a strategic plan for cooperation. He said that our stand is opposed to holding an Arab summit because there can never be a summit unless As-Sadat announces complete termination of his initiative.

GULF STATES TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO END ARAB DIVISION

NC151242Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0919 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 May--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today reports that the Gulf states, with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the forefront, are now studying the question of embarking on a collective initiative in Egypt as a prelude to restoring Arab solidarity and ending the current division without embarrassing Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

The paper says that issues currently being raised in this connection include the possibility of President as-Sadat addressing a warning to Israel in which he will announce the failure of his peace initiative and hold Israel responsible for threatening world peace if it does not make a tangible, positive move toward peace that will convince Egypt within a specified period of time.

The paper adds that if Israel does not make such a move, as would be expected, then President as-Sadat will no longer be bound by the commitments resulting from his inititive and will declare its failure. Such a declaration will be sufficient to lead to a collective Arab step to end division.

VOP: HEBRON, JERICHO MAYORS REJECT AS-SADAT PROPOSAL

JN151826Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestinc] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Mayors in the occupied West Bank have rejected the Egyptian president's proposal, in which he called for the return of the Gaza Strip to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan.

Zionist journalists asked Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimah his opinion of As-Sadat's recent proposals. We said: We prefer that the dispute remain confined to the Palestinian people and the occupation authorities, because the interference of the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes will further complicate the problem.

In reply to the same question, Jericho Mayor Bjabd al-'Aziz (?as-Suwayfi) said: As-Sadat's recent proposition is not practical and complicates the palestinian issue.

The Zionist correspondents were surprised at the similarity of the replies by Al-Qawasimah and (?As-Suwayfi), because they were questioned separately.

PFLP CRITICIZES COMMANDS INTERESTED IN SETTLEMENT

JN131005Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has criticized certain Palestinian commands which still pin hopes on participation in the settlement [at-taswiyah] negotiations. PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif said that adherence to the settlement plans, whose (?affiliation) and nature have been unmasked, is a stab in the back to the Palestinian Arab struggle. He said that the Palestinian revolution must be more decisive in its stand and a revolutionary incentive must be given for the progressive Arab forces to draw up a substitute strategy.

Abu Sharif said: The PFLP will hold large-scale political contacts at the Arab and international levels to explain the new political circumstances and developments as a step toward future moves in the area. He said that PFLP delegations will go to friendly countries for this purpose.

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS FATAH'S AZ-ZA'NUN

LD121450Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 7 May 78 p 5 LD

[Interview granted by Salim az-Za'nun, Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Gulf and vice chairman of the Palestine National Council, to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent 'Abdallah al-Qaq in Kuwait following his return from Beirut after attending meetings of the Central Committee of the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah]

[Excerpts] [Question] Can you tell us something about the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee?

[Answer] The Central Committee held continuous meetings from 27 April to 5 May. All committee members attended except for Brother Abu al-Lutf [Salah Khalaf], who was on an official mission to the Islamic ministers conference in Dakar. The committee analyzed the political situation in general, laid down strategic moves for the next stage, formulated a system of regulations and decided to hold regular meetings. The committee also devoted 48 hours of its time to discussing the formula proposed by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies 13-man committee which, had it been approved, would have led to a disaster. This is because the formula that was first proposed provided for publicly declaring the abrogation of the Cairo agreement and combatting the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon. However, the Central Committee, with the efforts exerted by its members at various levels, was able to bring about an amendment to this formula and the result was:

First, the statement on "Lebanese conciliation" included a clause providing for respecting the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summits, which means respecting the Cairo agreement as provided for in the second article of the Riyadh resolutions. The second was that it has been stated in the minutes of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, as expressed by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies now has power to abrogate international agreements concluded between the executive authority headed by the president of the republic and any other Arab or international body.

[Question] Has Begin's plan to crush the revolution militarily succeeded, and have the countries whom Begin asked to withdraw recognition from the PLO responded to this request?

[Answer] The Begin plan has failed in both aspects. Militarily, as the Israeli commanders who fought the battle admitted, the Israeli forces met with stiff resistance and suffered heavy losses. Also, the fedayeen units were not "wiped out" during the battle, thanks to the Palestinian military plan, which was able to protect the main Palestinian military body that was intended to be wiped out and led to inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The revolution emerged even stronger and more experienced from the battle. This was also thanks to the volunteers who came from Kuwait, Libya, Algeria and some Arab and European countries. The revolution's friends have also provided it with a substantial amount of arms and equipment. Politically, none of the world countries responded to Begin's request to withdraw recognition of the PLO. And as a veteran terrorist, the aim of Begin's request was to strip the Palestinian representatives of their diplomatic immunity and thus pave the way for their liquidation by Israeli intelligence.

[Question] Are there any differences between the Palestinian forces and the UN forces, and what was behind Abu 'Ammar's meeting with the commander of these forces?

[Answer] If the UN forces abide by the provisions of Resolution 425, there will be no differences. The task of the UN forces has been defined by the resolution as being to supervise the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanon. However, there are some people in Lebanon who wish to expand the power of the UN forces beyond the provisions of the resolution. On the other hand, Israel is fabricating incidents with the UN forces and attributing them to the Palestinians as a means of bringing pressure on the UN forces to extend their powers and become a real "repressive" force against the Palestinians and the Lebanese who formed the joint forces before the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. It appears that as a result of such Israeli pressure and pressure by the isolationist forces, some of the UN forces seem to be acting in a provocative manner.

[Question] It has been reported that the UN forces will turn into a deterrent force. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I do not think so. Should such an idea be considered, the PLO will resort to the Security Council in cooperation with the group of Arab countries whose representative at the Security Council is Kuwaiti delegate 'Abdallah Bisharah. There is no doubt that the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, will also stand by our side in this matter. The Soviet Union has already warned that the UN forces should not exceed their specific task of evacuating the Zionist enemy from southern Lebanon. It also warned that it will not accept any power participating in the UN forces to play an individual role or to be biased in favor of one party against another in southern Lebanon.

[Question] What is your opinion on U.S. policy regarding a solution to the problem and on the Egyptian president's initiative?

[Answer] U.S. policy has been and still is biased in favor of Israel. The illusory solution at which Carter is hinting is only intended to cool down nerves. Unfortunately, believing and going after this policy has led to a serious disturbance in the balance of power. Israel has become very strong, and the Arabs are in a state of disarray and weakness. Despite the failure of As-Sadat's initiative, the refusal to admit failure still characterizes the Arab attitude; it is also causing the failure of every attempt to bring about Arab solidarity and of closing ranks in order to stand united in the face of the Zionist enemy, who is becoming more vicious in the area.

[Question] It has been reported that Moshe Dayan will try to convince the United States that As-Sadat should represent the PLO. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The PLO is the sole legitimate representative. It is also, in accordance with the UN resolution, the party that has the right to represent the Palestinian people. We accept nobody else representing us in any field or international quarter.

[Question] What is your opinion of Begin's plans for self-rule?

[Answer] I do not think there is any difference between what Begin is offering and what Zionism has been planning since Herzel, Ben Gurion and Yitzhaq Rabin. The difference is only in the roles played by the various Zionist leaders. Every time the Zionist leaders look at the map of Palestine and see that the West Bank is like a fist thrust into the territories they usurped, they resort to maneuvering. They want nothing less than the whole of Palestine, which they want to keep in return for giving up the territories of the neighboring Arab countries. All this is just one stage leading to establishing a state of their own from the Nile to the Euphrates. Moshe Dayan had previously declared that Israel would accept in principle the division of the West Bank with the Arabs. This would mean that he would be returning to the Arabs only 11 percent of the Palestinian territory. He makes such an offer because he knows very well that it will be rejected; otherwise he would not have made it.

[Question] What were the attitudes of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Gulf states toward the Palestinian revolution and the Fatah movement during the battles in southern Lebanon, particularly since you have visited Saudi Arabia and the consensus among observers was that it was a very successful visit?

[Answer] During the battles of the south, when our heroes were fighting a fierce war, the Fatah Central Committee charged me with making a quick visit to Saudi Arabia. Indeed, the response of officials in the kingdom has shown a great sense of responsibility and solidarity with the Palestinian revolution. Royal orders were issued to give urgent aid to our heroes in southern Lebanon. To be fair, I must say the aid arrived at the appropriate time. The state of Kuwait, for its part, also gave aid and support, something to which we have become accustomed during crises. Likewise, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain gave aid to the Palestinian revolution--aid which the Palestinians will never forget.

Of course, I am talking about the countries which fell within the mission with which I was charged. But I must say that other Arab countries also responded to the call of duty when they were approached by the Palestinian revolution command.

INTERROGATION OF FATAH'S ABU DAWUD ENDS

NC1216032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 12 May--Official Palestinian sources have stated that the interrogation of Fatah Revolutionary Council member Abu Dawud has ended. Dawud has been accused of cooperating with Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, a Fatah dissident who has been sentenced to death and is now living in Baghdad.

Abu Dawud had organized a group of armed elements which arrived in Lebanon on 19 March after the cease-fire in the south to carry out military operations in the area. The Palestinian command considered these operations to be in violation of its decisions and the agreements it concluded with the United Nations. The result of the interrogation--which was conducted by Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Huli--will be submitted to the Fatah Central Committee, which will convene in Damascus next week to discuss several issues.

These sources say that during his interrogation, Abu Dawud denied that he had contacted Abu Nidal. He said he had contacted Abu Nidal's deputy, Abu ar-Ra'id, who had provided him with his 130-man group.

It is recalled that members of this group were arrested shortly after their arrival in southern Lebanon.

VOP CITES ISRAELI CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

JN151854Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Zionist political and military circles said in Tel Aviv yesterday that continuation of contact with some axes in southern Lebanon, from An-Naqurah on the Mediterranean to Al-'Urqub, via the so-called security belt, represented by a strip whose depth ranges from 3-10 km and where Israeli forces are stationed, is considered an essential condition for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it still occupies.

It will be recalled that the axes mentioned by the Zionist sources--which are Marj 'Uyun in the east, 'Ayn Ibil in the middle and Alma ash-Sha'b in the west--were isolated from one another before the recent Zionist aggression against Lebanon. The allied Zionist and isolationist forces are now present in these areas.

These informed Zionist circles added that Israel has stipulated as a condition of its withdrawal that work be continued on the so-called good fence on the border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine, and that units of the Lebanese regular army be stationed in these areas.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM SENEGALESE PRESIDENT

JN151829Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abu 'Ammar yesterday received a cable from Senegalese President Leopold-Sedar Senghor in reply to the cable of condolences sent to him by Abu 'Ammar following the death of three Senegalese soldiers in the UNIFIL. Following is the text of the cable:

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee:

The Senegalese people and I have been greatly impressed by your condolences on the death of the Senegalese blue helmets in southern Lebanon. We greatly thank you. Our soldiers died so that a just and lasting peace might prevail in the Middle East, a peace wherein all the region's peoples will realize their interests, beginning with the Palestinian Arabs. With best regards and appreciation.

ARAB OFFICIAL URGES BOYCOTT OF NICOSIA CONFERENCE

NC111945Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 May--Abu Salih al-Alfi, secretary general of the Arab teachers federation, has called on the Arab teachers associations to boycott the conference of the Mediterranean countries' teachers organizations to be held in Nicosia at the end of May under the auspices of the World Federation of Teachers.

In a cable sent to the Arab teachers associations today, Al-Alfi said the reason for the boycott is that the conference will be held in Cyprus, where Egyptian writer Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated. Convening this conference in Cyprus is an affront to Arab feelings, which have been provoked by the attitude the Cyprus Government adopted toward the incident.

NEW ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECRETARY APPOINTED

NC1113344Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 11 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 May--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad issued a decision today appointing former Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Riyad as adviser to the Arab League secretary general, with the title of Arab League assistant secretary general.

BAGHDAD VOP: EGYPTIAN REGIME DEPORTING PALESTINIANS

JN1319366Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] The Egyptian regime continues to carry out its acts of oppression against our struggling masses in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities recently arrested several Arab students and deported others. Seven Palestinian students arrived in Baghdad yesterday, and five others arrived the day before yesterday.

One of those deported stated that the Egyptian authorities have arrested some 50 students who are still imprisoned in Al-Qal'ah prison.

BAGHDAD VOP: PLO PARIS REPRESENTATIVE 'RECOGNIZES' ISRAEL

JN1320083Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department has supported the statements recently made by 'Izz ad-Din Qalaq, PLO representative in France, and Zuhdi at-Tarazi, PLO representative at the United Nations, to the effect that the Zionist entity is a fait accompli. In their statements, the PLO representatives did not rule out the possibility of coexisting with the Zionist entity.

Faruq Qaddumi claimed that these statements do not mean the recognition of the Zionist entity.

In another statement today, 'Izz ad-Din Qalaq recognizes the Zionist entity by pointing out the possibility of the PLO's participation in the settlement.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT RECEIVES PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN1218587 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1825 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 12 May--His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain heir apparent, received here this afternoon Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and the members of the delegation accompanying him on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs; Yasin ash-Sharif, Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia; and Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, 'Arafat stated that he had discussed with Shaykh Hamad several significant issues pertaining to the Palestinian problem and the current Arab situation. He added that the heir apparent showed complete understanding regarding all the issues discussed. His highness confirmed Bahrain's firm and constant attitude toward the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people, the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future and to set up their independent state, 'Arafat added. The PLO Executive Committee chairman expressed his satisfaction with his talks with Bahraini officials. He said these talks were successful, fruitful and fraternal. 'Arafat left for Kuwait this evening as part of his current tour of the area following a visit of several hours to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

AMIR RECEIVES, HOLDS MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT

LD1311267 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] The amir of Kuwait received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him, at As-Sif Palace at 1000 today on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. The amir's spokesman, Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, said after the meeting that 'Arafat explained in detail to the amir the PLO attitude to all current Arab developments. His highness--may God protect him--also reviewed with 'Arafat the present Arab situation and efforts to achieve reconciliation and unity in the Arab ranks.

At 1100 today Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah received in his office Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister, by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah and by the director of the PLO office in Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD, EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT RESUME TALKS IN RIYADH

LD1510387 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 15 May--Saudi-Egyptian talks were resumed today at 1030 at the guest palace in Al-Murabba'. The talks were headed by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy and crown prince, and by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak.

On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, and Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry. Taking part on the Egyptian side were Dr Usuma al-Baz, under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Ahmad Tha it, Egyptian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The talks dealt with the latest developments the Arab area and bilateral relations. The talks began yesterday evening. It is exp ed that Vice President Husni Mubarak will go to Amman on a similar mission after the end his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Prince Fahd, Mubarak Comment

LD1511467 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 15 May--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy and crown prince, has stated that his talks with Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak fall in the framework of the continuous Saudi-Egyptian contacts. In a statement to the press after his meeting with Husni Mubarak today, his royal highness said that there are constant contacts between the two countries, both between His Majesty King Khalid and President as-Sadat and at other levels, to serve the Arab issue and Arab interests.

He described Saudi-Egyptian relations as relations characterized by continuity. On Arab solidarity, His Royal Highness Prince Fahd stressed that the Arab nation is strong through its solidarity and unity. He said: This solidarity is the real power of this nation, and no passing differences can affect it.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd expressed the hope that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, who chairs the Arab Solidarity Committee, will be successful in his efforts to bring the Arab nation together again in one rank.

On the other hand, Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak stated that his visit to Saudi Arabia comes within the framework of the permanent consultations between the Kingdom and Egypt on Arab issues in particular and the issues that concern the two countries in general. He said that during his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy and crown prince, he had consultations on current Arab issues and bilateral relations.

On the restoration of relations between Egypt and some Arab states, Husni Mubarak said: Egypt sees no problems or obstacles to restoring relations with Arab states which broke off relations with Egypt, provided that these states pledge not to slander Egypt.

He referred to the initiative of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, and said: The aim behind it is to give the peace process a push forward and to find a solution to the Middle East problem. He said that the initiative had switched world public opinion to the side of the Arab cause. One of its results had been the demonstrations in Israel demanding peace instead of land, as well as the international pressure exerted on Israel to make some concessions. He added: It is wrong for us to imagine the initiative can solve a 30-year old problem in 1 or 2 months.

Referring to the airplane deal, he said: We are expecting the decision of the U.S. Senate today. He added: President Carter and the U.S. administration are doing their best to complete the deal.

He said that even if the issue was postponed it would not be a problem. We must think and consult about what we should do in the future.

He talked about the attitude of the United States toward the peace process and he said: Our relations with the United States are very firm. The United States is doing its utmost to push forward the peace process in the Middle East.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

LD131112Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Excellency President Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Riyadh at 1100 this morning on a visit to the Kingdom. His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's deputy and crown prince, welcomed the Mauritanian president at the airport.

Talks With Crown Prince

LD131113Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--Saudi-Mauritanian talks chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's deputy and crown prince, and his excellency the president of Mauritania, Moktar Ould Daddah, began this morning at 1130. The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the talks dealt with a number of matters of common interest, primarily bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East in general.

Fraternal Relations Noted

LD131317Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Excellency Foreign Minister of Mauritania Hamdi Ould Mouknass has stated that the visit of his excellency the president of Mauritania Moktar Ould Daddah to Saudi Arabia, which began today, is a fraternal one. He said this in a statement to SNA about the talks with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al'-Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, which, he said, dealt with matters of interest to both countries and the situation in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. The minister described relations between the Kingdom and Mauritania as fraternal and getting stronger and firmer in various spheres. He said that these relations are based on Islamic fraternity, which is the most important pillar of Moslem countries. Hamdi Ould Mouknass stressed that the Kingdom is considered the most important country of the Islamic world for the position and political and historic weight it represents. He said that the Islamic world reveres it for the presence of the two holy harams.

Visit Ends

LD142040Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Jidda, 14 May--Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah and his delegation left Jidda this morning for home after paying a 1-day visit to the Kingdom, during which he held talks with Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, regent and crown prince. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and the Middle East situation. The Mauritanian president also performed the minor pilgrimage.

UAE

JORDANIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS WITH ABU DHABI FUND

JN131522Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 May--A delegation of experts from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development met today at the fund's headquarters in Abu Dhabi with the Jordanian economic delegation currently visiting the UAE. During the meeting, a discussion was held on the implementation of those Jordanian economic projects to which the fund is contributing. The foremost of these projects is one of Jordanian phosphates production. In addition to this, the two sides discussed the possibility of promoting cooperation between the fund and Jordanian economic institutions.

RAS AL-KHAIMAH OIL REFINERY AGREEMENT SIGNED

JN142208Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1925 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Ras al-Khaimah, 14 May--The Ras al-Khaimah petroleum company signed an agreement here today with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Petroleum and the U.S. consulting firm Kellogg on the establishment of the Ras al-Khaimah oil refinery. Shaykh Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, Ras al-Khaimah's heir apparent and deputy governor, has stated that the preliminary studies submitted by the Kellogg firm stress the need for and economic feasibility of the project. Al-Qasimi further stated that the production capacity of the refinery is expected to be large and will cover the emirate's daily needs of oil byproducts, estimated at 50,000 barrels a day. The surplus will be exported.

Shaykh al-Qasimi stated that the U.S. firm will submit the final studies on the project this Friday. He stated that there are also other industrial and economic projects to be implemented in the emirates and these will be made public later on.

YAR

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI INTERVIEWED BY ALGERIAN TELEVISION

JN122149Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Text of interview granted by YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi to the Algerian television network--date not specified; read by announcer]

[Text] President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghahsmi has granted an interview to the Algerian TV mission. The following is the text of the questions and answers:

Mr President, on behalf of the Algerian TV mission, we wish to offer you our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your assumption of the post of president of the republic. Please allow us to ask you some questions:

Question: Mr President, can you tell us where Yemen stands after its years of revolution? Can we say that stability, which is represented by the restoration of democratic life and by the economic, social and cultural development of Yemen, is eliminating many obstacles?

Answer: First, allow me to welcome you to your homeland--Yemen. It is a happy opportunity to meet with devout Algerian sons in Yemen. Despite the (?stages) of backwardness through which Yemen has passed for ages and the isolation of Yemen prior to the 26 September Revolution, we are trying hard and diligently. After the 13 July corrective movement in 1974, we tried and are still trying hard to develop this country, but the road is difficult and thorny.

Question: Mr President: By virtue of the YAR's geographic location, what role is Yemen playing with regard to the current dispute in the Red Sea? And how do you see the future of the countries on this important strategic path?

Answer: Yemen is a country seeking peace and stability. Yemen has sacrificed thousands of martyrs for the sake of this noble objective. Our role is one of the brother and friend who seeks only good for himself, his brothers and neighbors. This is our role in this important and rather disturbed area.

Question: The Palestinian cause is a sacred Arab cause which concerns all Arabs. The Palestinian issue in particular and the Middle East cause in general have passed through a number of developments and events in recent months. Yemen played a major role in stressing the need for achieving solidarity. What results have been achieved, or will be achieved, from this call? And can you tell us what is the right road for solving the Palestinian cause?

Answer: The Palestinian issue is the issue of all Arabs everywhere. We in Yemen support the PLO and believe that Arab solidarity is our course for victory and for gaining the world's respect and support. It is essential that all differences among the Arab countries be eliminated so that we can restore our glory and our land and rights from the Israeli enemy. Our differences are naturally against the interest of the Arabs. Arab differences are not in the Arab interest. Continuing our struggle and wresting our usurped rights are essential and inevitable.

Question: Mr President, can you tell us about Yemen's relations and its (?neighbors) and does the aid [words indistinct] meet development requirements in Yemen, particularly the requirements of the 5-year plan?

Answer: Our relations with our brothers in the Arab Maghreb and Arab east are extremely good. Our relations with Algeria are strong and based on mutual respect. In regard to aid, since you know that our 5-year plan [words indistinct] we received aid from our brothers in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq and Kuwait, and we still hope to receive aid from the brothers everywhere.

Question: Mr President, on what basis can the unity between the two parts of Yemen take place?

Answer: The Arab, Islamic and unified Yemen must [words indistinct] through its unity which we are trying to achieve by means of understanding and coordination in various fields with our brothers in the south.

Mr President, on behalf of the Algerian TV mission, I wish to thank you for your statements. We also wish to thank you for taking part of your precious time, especially as you shoulder the great responsibility to rebuild Yemen. We thank you once again. May God grant you success. We wish Yemen progress and prosperity.

The president: Thank you and I wish you a happy stay in your homeland--Yemen.

AMBASSADOR STATES SATISFACTION WITH SENATE DECISION

NC160705Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] The U.S. Senate early this morning approved the decision of President Carter's administration to supply U.S. fighter aircraft to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Egypt's ambassador in Washington, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, expressed satisfaction with this decision. He said that the approval of the aircraft deal by the U.S. Senate proves that congress supports the U.S. administration policy aimed at ending polarization in the Middle East and ending Israel's monopoly of U.S. support.

The Egyptian ambassador added that the decision also confirms the interest of the U.S. Government and people in the need for the United States to pursue a constructive and effective policy that would lead the Middle East area to the just peace which is being sought by its peoples.

Dr Ashraf Ghurbal said that Egypt confirms President as-Sadat's statement that the October war will be the last war to be witnessed by the Middle East area. Dr Ghurbal added: We hope that Israel will pursue a rational policy that would lead the Middle East to this result.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH TRIBUNE REPORTED

NC150945Y Cairo MENA in English 0850 GMT 15 May 78 NC

["Following is the text of the interview by President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt on 13 May 1978 in the village of (?Mibul Kom), Egypt, to the Chicago TRIBUNE"--MENA headline]

[Text] Cairo, [date indistinct] MENA--Question: Mr President, we are very much interested in the progress of the negotiations of peace and we saw the interview that you had eventually made last week which suggested to us possibly the stalemate is breaking up and that possibly you are starting some initiatives.

Answer: Not yet, because, you see, we have to agree upon the fundamental issues so that you can find a common language to start with, but until this moment we did not find this common language or common ground, but apart from this, we are as I have said in my last speech, we are open minded, open hearted, and in my last speech also on the first of May I said let the October war be the last one, so this is our position now.

Question: You did make a suggestion for the administration of the West Bank and the administration of Gaza Strip which seems to me as something of a new approach.

Answer: Quite right. Well, I am always trying to find the ways and means to overcome all the difficulties and to ease the whole thing, and for that I proposed my last proposals, which go really in harmony with the 242 Resolution. It will mean, that let us return to the positions before the 1967 war, namely the Western Bank goes under Husayn and the Gaza Strip with Egypt, and let us sit together and discuss the security issue that we have already recognized.

Question: Well do you have any other proposals that you are likely to make in the next few days?

Answer: For the time being I have nothing at all, but believe me all the time I am thinking and I mean doing my best really to try to find some way out of all this fuss.

Question: We saw Ambassador Eilts on Wednesday before he came out to see you. We knew your major statement and your suggestions on the same day and I wondered: Is there any possibility that you communicated with the ambassador about these proposals?

Answer: No, no. Maybe I will tell you something. I may reveal something to you. I did not discuss this for sure. My friend President Carter received this for the first time from me, I mean from the New York TIMES. But the last time I met 'Ezer Weizman, the Israeli defense minister, I told him about this.

Question: What kind of reaction did you get about Mr Weizman?

Answer: I had said already I like the man and I have described him in a very few words. The man is sincere for peace as much as he is for his country.

Question: Had he responded to your proposals which you had told the New York TIMES?

Answer: He cannot. He cannot because he must return and tell Begin and then Begin calls the cabinet to meet and see if he can do it.

Question: Is there any real indication about how the Israeli Government is going to respond to your proposals?

Answer: Until now I did not really receive anything.

Question: Did you hear from President Carter or one of his officials and how did they respond to the proposals?

Answer: Not yet. Until this moment he did not send me his impression about the proposals, not yet.

Question: Mr. President, we have a question here. You have called persistently for a general declaration of principles that will guide the negotiations for peace. Now you are proposing specific proposals for the control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank?

Answer: In fact it is one approach because, let me tell you, even the Israelis with their attitude now they recognize that without solving the Palestinian question, which is the crux of the whole problem, there will be no peace in the area in spite of the fact that the Israelis would prefer to have a separate agreement with me. But they know and I told them quite frankly if the signature of a separate agreement brings peace to the area, permanent peace, that we are after now I am ready to do it. But it will not bring peace at all--either agreement with Egypt or agreements will all the confrontation states, namely Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt--by denying or not solving the Palestinian question, peace will not be established here. For the last two months or so we are trying to discuss the self-determination for the Palestinians and you know the Israeli positions on the Western Bank and the Gaza Strip and the hard line they are adopting.

This is a very important issue of security for Israel and so, very well, I am trying to facilitate the whole thing towards the establishment of peace.

I said we are not to return to the situation that was before 1967 but it differs completely now because in '67, at that time we refused to accept Israel in the area; we refused the direct negotiations with Israel in the area, and, automatically, we refused to be good neighbours because we did not accept them.

Now it is completely different. When we return to the situation of '67 it will be on the basis that we, as I have said, we accept Israel in the area. I myself have started the direct negotiations with them. We accept, as I have said before, whatever in the dictionary under the word good neighbourhood, we accept them without any condition.

So when I say let us return to the '67 [borders], they will go to the people and say this was insecure in position for Israel and so and so. This is completely different after my initiative.

Replying to a question on the different points of view of the Arab leaders regarding the approach for peace in the area, President as-Sadat said: "Well, you see, in the first place when I made my initiative I did not contact any of the Arab leaders really because I knew and I know that I am making a revolution. It was a complete revolution, a complete revolution. It took them by surprise and they were stunned like this in the Arab world as all over the world for that I did not contact any one. I did not want to embarrass them. I want to take the full responsibility myself. Well after my initiative, I called for the Cairo conference. It was because I said--and this is my theory since I met President Carter last year--my theory was that we should not go to Geneva without good preparations for it will be another copy of the armament conference which has been convening in Geneva for 25 years until now. So without good preparations they will be a failure, a setback, and a very dangerous situation will arise. So I said: Let us come and sit in Cairo after my visit to Jerusalem and let us agree upon the main principles for this settlement and then after that let us go to Geneva. Well, until this moment King Husayn visited me after my initiative and you know that he supports my initiative also but for certain reasons which I did not know really but he knows, he is taking this position now of caution, one day supporting my initiative, and he has been clear in this. The other there is some hesitance. I do not know why so. Believe me I did not contact him because I do not want to embarrass him if he chooses to have a certain position. But let me tell you this, and this I reveal for the first time. I thought in the last few days of this and I am really thinking of sending the vice president to meet with our brothers in Saudi Arabia and with King Husayn very soon. No one knows about this--you would be the first one who knows it really. Our press does not know about it.

Question: To what specific purpose Mr President?

Answer: For coordination.

Question: We will be visiting both Saudi Arabia and Jordan later on our trip. It will be very interesting to see what response they may have to that kind of coordination. Is this going to be your main effort in trying to forge a new sort of unity and cooperation among all Arab leaders?

Answer: After I leave here for Cairo, I shall be meeting with President Numayri. He has just returned from Morocco after he visited Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. I shall be learning from him what has taken place there. But for the Arab solidarity let me tell you this. I have said it before: It is misunderstood in the outside world. This issue of Arab solidarity and that the Arabs are shattered or so. These four, let me say four, because I don't consider South Yemen of any importance.

Question: The confrontation states?

Answer: When I say the four it means Algeria, Libya, Iraq and Syria, who have formed what is called the rejection camp.

They have never taken any share except Syria in the war for sure. They have never taken any share or have any weight to affect or form the events at all and I give you a very simple example. Before the October war, Al-Qadhdhafi, Libya and Iraq were against. During the October war Al-Qadhdhafi was against. After the October war, Al-Qadhdhafi was against my first disengagement agreement. All of them, the four, were against, and it was never thought that Arab solidarity has been shattered.

Now they are raising their voices, because it is exactly as I said. Like I have done in the October war, the first disengagement agreement, the second disengagement agreement I am for peace, and I shall continue. And here is my answer to your question. I intend to continue to the end, if need be alone. So I think I gave you my answer. Yes, I declared this before, and I said when I called for the Cairo conference even if no one came except Israel, I shall be proceeding until the end.

Question: Is it possible that you might go to Jerusalem again for another conference in case the stalemate continues?

Answer: As I have told you in my last speech on the first of May, this month, I said we are openhearted and openminded. The direct contact that I have already started will continue.

Whatever develops, we shall be ready to answer. We shall be ready to seize so that we can reach an agreement. As for visiting Jerusalem again, this time it should be like this: Whenever we reach an agreement, I am ready to go and sign it there but not before that. I have shown my will. But I have shown our good will, I mean, and our...

Answer: Good will?

Answer: No, more than that. We have shown our will to take the most drastic decisions. I am ready to do it, but this time it should be the signature.

Question: Mr President, from what you said I am assuming that you are trying, you are working, to bring together the Arab countries, that you send the vice-president out to the Arab countries. Do you see any signs of increased cooperation among the Arab countries on this issue?

Answer: Well, you see, as I told you, the whole thing is exaggerated. Why? They think that the Arab solidarity is shattered, as I told you. But no, the same situation was before the October war and after the October war. The same who are now shouting they were shouting, as I told you, in the first disengagement agreement and in the second disengagement agreement. They have done the same and they have never changed the fate of anything. They have no weight. That is why when they met in Tripoli under Al-Qadhdhafi after my visit to Jerusalem, and they took a decision to freeze relations with Egypt and abused the Egyptian people, I told my people: Very well they have decided to freeze. Well, decide to sever, and we severed. And I said in my statement at that time: I want everyone in the Arab world and the whole world public opinion to see if those have any weight. And I said that everyone should know his size. Now it did not take more than a few weeks and they started abusing each other. For that I said: I am ready to return the relations with whoever wants from them to return the relations with me. [sentence as received] And I do not ask anything except I don't agree to the abusing of Egypt.

Question: Do you see the Russian activities in the Horn of Africa and in Ethiopia having any effect on Arab unity? Al-Qadhdhafi, for example, seems to be very upset because the Russians were moving into Eritrea. Would this have a tendency to make him cooperative with you in your peace efforts?

Answer: I am not waiting for Al-Qadhdhafi to take any actions towards me because the man is a mental case and the man is full of himself. As I told you, before the October war, during the October war and after the October war he is the same and he is of no weight. It is only a checkbook in his pocket. But checkbooks never make any leader at all. So I am not waiting for this from Al-Qadhdhafi. And I don't need it from Al-Qadhdhafi, at all.

Question: The Russians, are you concerned about what the Russians are doing in Africa?

Answer: Well, go and ask your people there in the foreign relations committee either in the Senate or in the congress. I told them last year, April last year, more than a year now in April '77 but they could not believe me and at that time there were the Angola and Zaire problems. I told them we shall be having the Horn soon. They did not believe me. Six months after that came the Horn. This time I am telling you: This Eritrea will be Eritrea [as received] and the Sudan because the Soviet Union is after Numayri in Sudan and after me. They will not forget what Numayri called them or his attitude and they will never forgive me for what they consider I have done to them. So I said this in April '77. Today I am telling you, as I have told your people in the foreign relations committees in the Senate and congress, and unfortunately you are still putting an embargo on me just like the Soviet Union has put an embargo on me for five years since the end of the October war and until this moment. I'm not asking for offensive arms. The plane F-5 that I'm asking for is a tenth rate airplane compared with what the Israelis are receiving--either the Phantom or F-15 or F-16--this is tenth grade behind them. Well all I'm asking is this: If the United States is going to treat me like the Soviets are treating me, really it will be a very great disappointment in this field of defense because all I'm asking is for our legitimate defense. I'm not asking these arms to start an offensive against Israel. I'm only asking this for our legitimate defense, my responsibility.

Question: If that package fails in the congress, and it is uncertain right now, what would be the effect on the Middle East peace and the whole peace process?

Answer: Let me tell you quite frankly: It will be a great disaster. What we are asking, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, we are asking for the legitimate defense of our people, or our nation. We are not asking to start any offensive against anyone. You have already mentioned this battle in Africa, called the battle in Africa because it started in west Africa, in Angola and Zaire. Now it is in eastern Africa, in the Horn. Tomorrow it will be in the Sudan and on my borders. So already there is a feeling of uncertainty among all the Arab world towards the United States. Why? Because after Israel made its attack on south Lebanon and after President Carter used all his efforts to make Israel withdraw and they are still slacking. Believe me there is a grave state of uncertainty among the whole Arab world.

Question: Would you just be as determinative to continue with your peace offensive if that package failed in the congress? What would be the effect on you?

Answer: Not at all. It would never affect my efforts to reach peace or to establish peace. But let me put some remarks on this.

As I told you, we have already shown our behaviour before the hundreds of millions all over the world. Let the October war to be the last war, but like Saudi Arabia and Israel, Egypt must satisfy its legitimate defense requirements. This F-5 plane will be an evidence from the side of the United States Government and Senate upon the understanding of this issue of security needs. We have followed with great interest the debate in congress and we are still following it. Let me tell you this. I hope that the congress will recognize, as the administration has, the validity of Egypt's needs.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia, I think have shown their confidence in the United States, and we are working together hand in hand in trying to find a peaceful solution through which permanent peace will be established in the area. Well, as I told you of this case of uncertainty, if this deal will be refused by the Senate and the congress it shall mean that you not reciprocate us the trust we have in you and this will be very fatal. But still, as I told you, it will not hinder me from doing my best to reach peaceful settlement.

Question: Mr. President, you have just said that if we do not reciprocate the trust you placed in the United States, it will be very fatal. What you mean by that?

Answer: Let me tell you this quite frankly, as I told you about the case of uncertainty all over the Arab world after Israel invaded southern Lebanon. Why (?is this a case of uncertainty?) It is because Israel is doing whatever she wants and in spite of the fact that President Carter puts an urgent proposal to the Security Council and the Security Council decided on this [within] twenty four hours to withdraw, and so Israel is slacking and I mean fulfilling its wishes. This means that the United States should be the safety valve for what Israel does here. It shows that the United States lost its influence and that is the cause of uncertainty. In the case when I told you that for Saudi Arabia and for me it would be very fatal, because we will not be in a position to try and convince any Arab man on the street that the United States and President Carter can stop Israel because, as you know, the vein of life goes from the United States to Israel. Let me complete my last statement on this arms deal. I think I have been clear before the foreign relations committees, both in the Senate and the congress, and I speak it quite clearly and am stating it clear. We are not asking for arms to attack Israel but for our legitimate defense issues, especially me in Africa here as I told you before. But I have stated before your congress and Senate that in the peace agreement I shall be ready to agree upon the limitation and ending the race of armament in the area.

Answering a question concerning if he was worried about the question of arms deal to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the guarantees such as where the Saudis are to place the planes, the President as-Sadat answered:

[Cairo MENA Arabic version of this question transmitted at 0715 GMT 15 May reads: "Asked whether he is worried about President Carter's proposal to grant Israel 20 additional aircraft and to seek guarantees from Saudi Arabia regarding where the Saudis will station the planes, President as-Sadat answered:"]

Yes, I am worried. Yes, I am worried. When we started this peace process, you may remember that we started this peace process immediately after the October war.

Egypt and the United States, me and Kissinger, we started this peace process which achieved the first disengagement agreement, the second disengagement agreement and then the third step towards the Geneva conference that Carter started to make the preparations for. Well, Henry at that time had a theory. He thought whenever he provides Israel with more arms and whenever they feel more secure through building a huge arsenal there in Israel, they will be more lenient and more ready to achieve peace. I was of the opposite opinion. I told him: No, it will not. On the contrary, it will make them at a certain point defy you and for that I am against any additional arms to Israel. Why, Israel can absorb whatever is there now, believe me. [It is] something fantastic what is in Israel now, either in type or in sophistication. The more sophisticated arms you have provided Israel, and as I told you, to the extent that they will need mercenaries from the outside to come to use the arms because they do not have the population to work these arms. [incomplete sentence as received] So any more arms will mean, believe me in this, because after sometime you will see that I am right, that whatever arms you give, will always make them in a position to defy you and to try and impose their conditions on you. That is why I am against any additional armament to Israel.

Question: Mr. President, in these coordination discussions who will represent the Palestinians and will the vice president have the opportunity to discuss these matters with the Palestinians?

Answer: Well, you see, the Palestinians, I mean the PLO, has chosen to join the rejectionists so whenever the Palestinians choose to come here, they will be heard here in Egypt. But we shall not go after them. But in the vice president's trip, it will be Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Saudi Arabia, because of this arms deal, because we must coordinate together, Jordan for the coordination in the future steps, and we shall not embarrass him or harass him at all. We shall only give him our opinion and he has to decide for himself.

Question: Mr. President, you mentioned earlier that King Husayn is supercautious. Is the aim of this coordination process, if Jordan is the one concerned, to move him out of that position?

Answer: As I told you, I shall never disclose anything which may embarrass King Husayn or harass him. I am not really in position to embarrass or harass any one. It is for him to choose.

Question: Could you make the peace with Saudi Arabia and Jordan? You say you are reluctant to make the unilateral peace with Israel. Would it be possible to make the peace with these two partners?

Answer: Well, mark this: The trip of the vice president to Saudi Arabia is mainly for the arms deal. We are preparing ourselves to face the situation when you deny us, when your congress denies us very legitimate rights to defend our country and be provided with arms for our defense. So this is mainly in Saudi Arabia, but in Jordan it is completely different. Why? Because when I made my proposal that you have already told me about now, I did not know that when it was quoted in the New York TIMES that it was you because as I told you, I told Weizman about it before, but I did not mention it. Well, because this issue, if agreed upon, will mean that Jordan should be ready to cooperate in the whole thing because they will be taking the Western Bank again. The situation will return to the 1967.

Jordan will be in the Western Bank, Egypt will be in Gaza Strip and then we sit together and discuss the security issue. And so I think it is quite logical that we should tell him what we mean by this.

Question: If the arms deal did not go through and the vice president does go to Saudi Arabia with respect to the arms deal, does it mean that you have to go shopping for your arms from the French and other suppliers?

Answer: As I told you, I am after my legitimate right to defend my country. I shall be trying to buy from Western Europe, from England, any other country which can help us, for sure.

Question: I get the impression that in this armament situation, you are threatened by Israel and threatened by the Russians. There is a possibility that you will not get the arms you need to defend yourself. Are you pessimistic about peace?

Answer: Not at all. As I told you I am always optimistic by nature. I learned it here from this soil, where I was brought up. No, I am optimistic.

Question: What can be done? What could the United States do?

[Cairo MENA Arabic 150715 version of this question is: What can be done? What can the United States do? What can Israel do? And what can the Arab nation do?]

Answer: Quite simply, this: The United States could act as a full partner, not as a mediator or a co-chairman of Geneva conference. Only she can guarantee the 338 resolution of the Security Council--the United States should act as full partner. That is what I want from the United States. From Israel, I am not asking them for any concessions. I am telling them this: Let the October war be the last one and let us live in good neighbourhood, and peace is the only means to provide security, not the expansion of lands.

Question: Mr President, you are satisfied that Mr Carter has done a lot to persuade Israel to be more flexible?

Answer: Not yet. I think not yet.

Question: What additional steps would you like to see?

Answer: You know, your administration headed by President Carter, they know the full details about the whole problem and all the dimensions of the whole thing. Peace built on justice, that is what we are asking.

Only peace based on justice and whatever this peace needs we are ready to provide. There are lots that President Carter should do and continue to do.

Question: Could you suggest something specific that might be helpful from your own point of view?

Answer: Well, let me not embarrass him now and put only this quotation that he should act as a full partner, and because you know any disclosing of anything prematurely may damage the efforts that all of us are trying.

Question: One of the strange things here is that you are asking him to act as a full partner to Egypt, I presume.

Answer: Full partner to the problem, in the problem.

Question: The United States is right in the middle of this. It is the arms supplier and chief negotiator for Israel as well as for Egypt, which makes it very difficult. How do you see a solution to that problem?

Answer: When I say a full partner, Carter is not working as an agent for us. No. I say, Carter, we want his help in convincing people that peace should be built on justice. But I'm not asking President Carter to negotiate for me. I shall be negotiating. I have started direct negotiations in spite of the fact that, as I told you, for thirty years no one imagined it could have happened. I shall continue to have this direct contact. Needless to say, one of the conditions for the Arab solidarity that was sent to me is to break the direct negotiations with Israel. I said no. This is for you. This is for the first time I am saying this. Yes, I said no, I shall continue direct negotiations. Why? I don't want a guardian, either the United States or the Soviet Union. The time of guardianship here in Egypt has passed. We have our case in our hands. So, I'm not asking Carter to negotiate for me at all. But, whenever we sit together to negotiate, I'm asking Carter to act as a full partner not as a negotiator or as a mediator or just to convey messages from here to there or so. Around the table, he should be a full partner, and whatever he sees in the establishment of peace that is against justice, he must say it and declare before the whole world that this is against justice. That is what I mean.

Question: You still maintain that the PLO forfeited its right to represent the Palestinians?

Answer: I did not say this. I did not say this. I said that I do not have any connections now with the PLO because they have chosen to join the rejection camp. But whenever they choose to come and talk with my people here, they will be received by my foreign minister, by those who are responsible, or so. So this is our picture.

Question: My question then was basically this: How does the PLO in your mind fit in your prospective settlement? It is very difficult for me to discern that.

Answer: Well, Israel is not making it difficult only for the PLO. It is making it difficult for me, who has visited Jerusalem and jumped over a heritage of thousands of years. And they are doing the same with me.

Question: I still do not understand how you think the PLO might be driven eventually to a peace arrangement or resolution, given this kind of leadership.

Answer: Well, as I told you, how can I answer such a question like this while I have the same thing from Israel, me, who have made the initiative and have faced the whole world?

Question: You suggested that the United States become a full partner. Have you received any positive sign in recent weeks or recent days that they may indeed move for a good position and becoming a full partner around the table?

Answer: Well, I have stated this in my last visit in the states last February, after we met in Camp David and before, as I told you before, the foreign relations committees of both the Senate and congress, and in the press club and in my farewell speech. Let me hope that President Carter can fulfill this wish from our side. Until that moment I tell you this, lots can be done by President Carter but I am waiting.

Question: Before we came over here, we met with Mr. Atherton and had a talk with him about the problems of the Middle East and he told us at that time that things were at a stalemate and he did not know when things were going to begin to move again. Well, he made a speech--I think it was on Wednesday in Detroit in which he talked about the problem. And it seems to me that he was suggesting that maybe things were going on, that they showed a little movement again, that maybe the stalemate was breaking off a little and perhaps he was basing that on the interviews that you had with the New York TIMES. I don't know. But, did you hear anything through Mr. Atherton that suggests that he thinks that movement is being made?

Answer: Not yet. Not yet.

Question: Mr. President, the Chicago TRIBUNE is carrying a story from its correspondent in Israel in tomorrow's newspaper that the government has begun seriously to consider several unofficial concessions to get the negotiations started again. One of them is the possibility of abolishing the military government on the West Bank and redetermining [as received] troops away from the population centres and strategic points along the river. Is that sort of thing what you are looking forward to get the negotiations started back again?

Answer: Well, let me tell you this. We are after the evacuation of the land occupied in '67. If they are ready to evacuate the Western Bank and the Gaza Strip, they are welcome, for sure. But it should not be taken as a concession, because they have not the right to continue the occupation there. They are not making any concessions.

Question: Is there any way to get a peace settlement with Israel's settlements remaining in the occupied areas or do you call for strict civilian as well as military withdrawal from the area?

Answer: Let me tell you this, our position on the settlements is that the settlements are illegal and this is your position also. This is Carter's position, and I cannot add anything to this. I don't know how they are going to establish permanent peace with us while they are occupying others' land or forcing settlements on others' land or so.

Question: Even without a military presence?

Answer: The settlements are illegal and what we are after is not the military presence or the military guardian of the settlements. No, the settlements in principle are illegal.

Question: Mr. President, in 1974 you announced the open-door policy for investments to come to this country and so far it did not seem to have paid off very well. I wonder, is the lack of peace agreement the main reason for this?

Answer: No, not at all. I would like you to go to visit my Minister as-Sayih [the minister of economy] and he will tell you.

I am very satisfied with the extent of the growth. It is four years only, four years only, and some of the projects, of the ventures, that we started needed time. I give you an example of one of the ventures that we started together and we are receiving the help from the United States. We have already received help. It is under construction. It is a factory in Suez. This will not yield its production before two years or so. But it is under construction now and everywhere in the country; do not give an ear to what is said in Cairo. Cairo is not the real picture of Egypt at all. I have there some elements to which tomorrow in the anniversary of the 15th of May revolution, I shall be giving a piece of my mind to them.

Question: Coca Cola is one of those companies that are coming, and I think originally they were on the Arab Boycott list. Does this mean that the Arab Boycott has become a dead issue?

Answer: No, no, it would never be a dead issue at all. But according to the law of the Boycott itself, whenever a company invests here more than its investment in Israel, they are welcome. It is in the charter of the Boycott.

Question: So, Coca Cola coming in is not a failure or breaking the Boycott?

Answer: No, no. We must, according the the law and charter of the Boycott, we must submit the whole thing before the Boycott committee and my Ministry of Foreign Affairs are doing this now.

Question: Do you think Boycott is a good idea since your trip to Jerusalem might seem to have...?

Answer: Well, well, that is the Israeli way of discussion: Well, why not ease this Boycott, why not ease that and why go to side issues and leave the main issue? Well, if the main issue is settled, all the side issues automatically will be settled, automatically without any effort from anyone.

Question: Mr. President, your major speech of tomorrow, which we understand is going to be a significant statement, is it mostly on domestic policy or on the foreign policy too?

Answer: Completely domestic, because in the first of May I have stated my position, either on the international arena or in the Arab world.

Question: Is there anything that we have not covered Mr President?

Answer: No.

Question: I just want a hint from tomorrow's speech. Will it be on economic affairs and other questions?

Answer: No, on the whole my speech will deal generally with our democratic system and march and my remarks for the time being and for the future. Wait until tomorrow.

SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC122040Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri tonight arrived in Cairo from Morocco. He was met on arrival by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and senior state officials.

Meets With As-Sadat

NC131515Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri held a meeting at At-Tahirah Palace this afternoon. The radio reporter has learned that President Numayri briefed President as-Sadat on the outcome of his recent tour of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco within the context of the mission he is undertaking to strengthen Arab solidarity.

Meets Arab League's Riyad

NC131551Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri today met with Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad within the framework of the consultations he is holding in his capacity as chairman of the Arab solidarity committee.

Following the meeting, the Arab League secretary general said the discussion dealt with the outcome of President Numayri's tour of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. He said President Numayri will return to Khartoum and from there will resume his tour by visiting other Arab countries.

The Arab League secretary general said that President Numayri's mission is not linked with any timetable. After concluding his tour President Numayri will call for a meeting of the Arab solidarity committee to acquaint it with the outcome of his mission.

Concluding his statement, the Arab League secretary general affirmed that the results achieved so far by the tour of the Sudanese president call for optimism and that it is premature to say that this pan-Arab mission is facing obstacles.

It should be recalled that Mahmud Riyad is a member of the Arab solidarity committee. He also accompanied President Numayri on his visits to Damascus and Baghdad.

Leaves Cairo

NC131754Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Cairo for Khartoum this evening following a brief visit to Egypt during which he met with President Anwar as-Sadat and briefed him on the outcome of his tour of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

Numayri was seen off at the airport by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Presidential Office Director Hasan Kamil, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Engineer 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata, the irrigation minister and head of the escort committee accompanying President Numayri.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Comments

NC130848Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM says today that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will call a meeting of the Arab solidarity committee to discuss what measures can be taken during the coming phase in light of the results of his talks in Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

The paper says that the Arab solidarity committee, which is chaired by President Numayri, is facing difficulties from the rejectionist states, particularly Syria and Iraq. It says that these states are trying to obstruct the current efforts to restore Arab solidarity and are laying conditions designed to hamper the idea of convening an Arab summit conference and to keep the Arab world divided in the face of Israel.

The paper notes that during his visit to Syria President Numayri encountered several difficulties. Syria laid nonsensical conditions for the restoration of its relations with Egypt. One of these conditions is that Egypt declare the failure of its peace initiative. This comes at a time when Egypt has declared its readiness to restore these relations unconditionally.

The paper says that the Iraqi Ba'th Party is adopting the same attitude as Syria. Also, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that an Arab summit conference cannot be held under the (?canopy) of As-Sadat's initiative. 'Arafat has also declared his support for the Arab rejectionist states, despite what has happened to the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

The paper publishes a statement which President Numayri made before leaving Fez yesterday in which he said that King Hassan II of Morocco had presented several proposals to him to facilitate the task of the Arab solidarity committee.

The Sudanese president said that King Hassan II had emphasized that Morocco is prepared to carry out any task it is assigned and to contact the Arab states in order to help in convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible.

President Numayri added that such a conference will be a conference for conciliation, which we are all seeking.

Meanwhile, Saudi ambassador to Egypt 'Abd ar-Rahman Abu al-Khayl said in a statement published by the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM today that Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil's upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia in the next few days is within the framework of the continuing Egyptian-Saudi contacts for consultations and for coordinating stands.

DECREE CALLS FOR REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON 21 MAY

NC1515442Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a presidential decree calling voters, whose names are recorded in the voters registers, to express their opinion in the referendum on the principles of protecting the domestic front and social peace which were mentioned in his excellency's statement which was issued yesterday.

The presidential decree calls for holding the referendum on Sunday, 21 May. Voting will begin at 0700 and end at 1700 in the manner stipulated in the law on organizing the practicing political rights.

TWO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO BE INTERROGATED

NC1511352Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 May--Today's issue of the Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that two members of the Egyptian People's Assembly will be referred to the socialist prosecutor for interrogation in connection with statements they reportedly made in Alexandria in the last few days.

The two members have been stripped of their parliamentary immunity. The paper says that the two members are 'Alawi Hafiz, a Wafdist, and Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri, a Leftist.

It is known that 'Alawi Hafiz was a member of the free officers organization and a prominent member of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt since its establishment. He resigned from the party in January 1977 and became one of the founders of the New al-Wafd party.

LEGAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST LEFTIST PARTY

NC142305Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2232 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 May--The Monday editions of the Cairo papers prominently report under banner headlines the important political speech which President Anwar as-Sadat made today on the seventh anniversary of the 15 May Revolution.

The papers note the referendum to which President Anwar as-Sadat has called the people. The referendum includes numerous principles for reforming the march toward democracy. The papers also point out that President as-Sadat has requested Dr Mustafa Khalil, first secretary of the ASU Central Committee, to take the legal measures stipulated by the parties law against the Leftist Party because it continues to endanger national unity and social peace.

KAMIL CONTACTS VANCE REGARDING ISRAELI ACTIVITIES

NC130001Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 May--AL-AHRAM confirms in tomorrow's issue that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has sent an urgent letter to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance informing him of Egypt's strong objection to and condemnation of the illegal activities which Israel is undertaking with the help of American and Western companies to exploit oil, gas and other natural resources in occupied Egyptian territory and territorial waters.

Kamil's letter to Vance expresses the extent of the seriousness of the continuation of these illegal activities, particularly in the southern At-Tur area and in the nearby territorial waters, in Rafah, south of the Gulf of Suez and in almost all the occupied Egyptian territories with exploitable natural resources.

The foreign minister's letter points out the need for the United States to issue a warning to the U.S. companies carrying out these activities in the occupied Egyptian territories.

The foreign minister contends that Egypt is aware that the United States is in agreement with Egypt's stand and recognizes the fact that the Israeli activities are illegal and that the UN General Assembly has issued a resolution on the need for all countries that are responsible for these companies to halt all activities in the occupied territories.

The foreign minister's letter affirms that Egypt has sent a note to the United Nations in this regard, that Egypt has requested that this subject be placed on its agenda and that the United Nations has directed the states concerned by letter [word indistinct] adopt measures that will halt these illegal activities.

CAIRO: ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WILL BRING WAR

LD131624Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Kamal ash-Shulgami commentary]

[Text] The recent statements of the new Israeli chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, in which he confirmed that the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights is essential for Israel's security and survival, have many implications, the most important of which can be summed up as follows:

First, these statements were not made by Israel's political leaders, from whom we are used to hearing such hardened statements for local consumption or any other political objectives. These statements were made by an Israeli commander, the new Israeli chief of staff. This clearly means that these statements reflect the views of the Israeli military establishment on withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands. Consequently, they embody the visualization of the Israeli military establishment of the peace operation.

Second, at a time when the peace efforts are going through critical and difficult circumstances, as a result of the intransigent attitude of Begin, the Israeli prime minister, the statements by the new Israeli chief of staff confirm that Israeli extremism is not confined to the political leadership in Israel but extends to the military command, a matter which confirms that Israel wants the region to remain tense and ready for war.

Third, those statements in which General Eytan attempted to tie Israel's security to the continued occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights constitute a return to the situation before the 6 October 1973 war, when the Israeli security theory, based on expansion, was the linchpin of the Israeli philosophy which dictated Israel's view of the Israeli-Arab conflict and its solution. This theory was shattered during the October war. The readherence to it after this liberation war with its outcome and new reality is a serious setback through which Israel is trying to (?aggravate) the peace efforts.

Moreover, the attempt by the Israeli chief of staff to confirm Israel's security through force and the continued occupation of Arab lands, we believe, is an attempt to frighten the Israeli man in the street who reacted favorably to President as-Sadat's initiative, which achieved a balance between the security of all sides to the conflict and confirmed the return of the Arab lands and restoration of Arab rights, thus presenting a complete formula which makes a just peace a lasting reality. This was strongly supported by the Israeli man in the street, who called on Begin to choose peace and security rather than expansion and land.

The attempt of the Israeli chief of staff to frighten the Israeli man in the street and influence his inclination toward peace is a setback to the peace efforts and leads the Middle East toward tension and war. It is true that Yiga'el Yadin, the Israeli deputy prime minister, said that he would raise these statements in the cabinet meeting tomorrow; however, it is also true that the raising of this issue does not come as a result of their content but because they were uttered by a military and not a political leader. This means that opposition is a formality that does not touch on content and essence. Thus the direction Israel is taking toward wrecking the chance of peace will definitely not make the October war the last war in the region because Israel must abandon its intransigence toward the peace efforts and shoulder its responsibility in achieving this peace, a matter that has not happened yet.

AL-AHALI EDITOR SCORES SUPPRESSION OF MEDIA

LD151706Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 May 78 p 3 LD

[Article by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, chief editor and general secretary of National Progressive Unionists Grouping Party: "Is It Democracy's Responsibility?"]

[Excerpts] Suddenly and without warning democracy has become a burden, even a danger. After the spate of articles and statements about democracy, the advantages of practicing it and the benefits to be drawn from it, suddenly there has come a change of tone. Alarming questions are being asked and warnings of serious risks are being sounded. Will Cairo be burned for the third time because of wrong democratic practices?

We have forgotten our other problems. Egypt's crisis is no longer due to Zionist intransigence, or the difficulty of finding a way out of the stifling economic crisis, or the open door policy with its positive and negative results. Our problem is none of these. The danger, the fault and the sin--all these lie in what has been called wrong democratic practices.

It is being said that questioning and seeking explanations at the People's Assembly are restricting the government's actions. Is this something new or surprising? Parliament means the existence of a responsible government, a government answerable to parliament. A deputy has a right, among other things, to question, to ask, and to criticize what he believes is wrong. Otherwise, what is the meaning of being a people's representative, and why is it necessary to have a People's Assembly as a controlling body and a legislative authority? Some may go to excesses in using such a right and the ministers may feel pressure and even embarrassment as a result. But this is natural and, I would say, essential for the proper application of the democratic experiment and the smooth managing of affairs. Otherwise, how can there be control on the government without a parliament and how can the opposition exercise control if the ministers do not feel its pressure?

Democracy in itself and in essence is a control on the ruler and freedom for the ruled. A ruler in any democratic regime must feel the pressure from various directions that are governed by balances of the powers that practice democracy. Under such pressures and because of them the right decisions are taken, because such decisions are not taken individually but as a result of conflict with the opposition.

The right to oppose is not a luxury or a gift. It is not a luxury in the sense that it is allowed when the wind is fair and the ship is sailing smoothly, and one can also start grumbling and complaining when matters become complicated. Can sound and correct thinking come about in isolation of the views of others under the pretext that matters are complicated or concern a "national" issue?

The right to oppose is not a gift in that it is a basic right guaranteed by every constitution.

But what is strange about the situation is that the government, despite all its powers and its use of such powers in a manner that is sometimes subject to criticism, is the one that is complaining about opposition--the leftist opposition in particular.

The government has the absolute control over the so-called national information media; it controls the radio, the television, the three daily newspapers and scores of weeklies and monthlies as well as a party paper which is privileged with commercial advertising.

This government is complaining about our newspaper AL-AHALI, which is published by the contributions of the poor and cannot afford to print the extra copies needed to meet the increasing demand for it.

The government has assumed the sole right to hurl insults against the "opponents." Together with its papers it has been pursuing an unhealthy and incorrect policy of hurling insults against us and accusing us of being agents, traitors, and atheists. This government complains that AL-AHALI has dared to uncover what has been concealed and quoted a line or two from the official newspaper. Is this not strange and even suspicious? What greater power and influence does the government want than what it already has?

They accuse AL-AHALI of instigation. It is our right to question the definition of the term "instigation." Does it mean "opposition," or "criticism," or "exposing deviations?" Using the term in the absolute sense, any action implying any opposition, being great or small, is then considered an instigation. Is it therefore necessary to gag all mouths so as to prevent any instigation?

Finally we would like to discuss the claim that a Leftist Party is permitted to exist provided that it is not led or controlled by "agents." Here again terms are being used in their absolute sense. Can anyone outside a party impose on it the type, quality, identity, and political affiliation of its leaders? Belonging to a party is a voluntary thing and no member can be forced to join a party who does not like its leadership or policy. No party leadership acting democratically can impose itself or remain in office.

Our last word in this regard is that every time the government feels irked by opposition and democratic practices, the only solution is further democracy. Otherwise, our intolerance with democracy might drive us to taking measures here and there, after which we would find ourselves pursuing an opposite course.

Believe me, democracy and its practices is not the reason for Israel's refusal to withdraw to the 1967 borders and recognize the Palestinian people's right. Nor is it the reason for our inability to overcome the crushing economic crisis, for the continuing increase in prices, for the increase in social differences, and for the threat to our political and economic independence. Only democratic practices have been able to expose the faults in such policies, and, therefore, their proponents have deserved to be cursed.

AL-AHALI CRITICIZES RECENT CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD122041Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 May 78 p 2 LD

[Editorial: "Not by Reshuffling Alone"]

[Text] Our number one problem is the wide gap between our principles and their application.

We have laid down three principles on which our public regime is to be based. These are: The inevitability of a socialist solution, social peace and national unity. But in practice we do everything to the contray and even exactly the opposite.

Instead of reforming and applying socialism, we are reverting to capitalism--indeed, to the lowest grade of capitalism, which is parasitic and consumer capitalism.

We did not choose socialism by coincidence, but rather after 9 years of giving capitalism every opportunity and possibility until it proved its failure and bankruptcy. Egypt has chosen scientific socialism, with Egypt's distinctive application and interpretation, translated into a 5-year plan which all economists agree is the most successful experiment in development in the history of Egypt and of the Third World. Instead of going ahead on this path, we are now returning to the party whose disadvantages and difficulties we have already experienced.

The main and principal enemy of social peace is exploitations and class differences. Such a peace can be achieved only through the gradual elimination of exploitation, the narrowing and removing of class differences, and the solving of social conflicts and contradictions genuinely and peacefully. No social peace can be achieved between destitutes and affluent millionaires.

Instead of doing this we are giving free rein to the growth of a parasitic exploiting class that has almost total control of the country's economy and destiny, a class that has no national or social commitments and thus arouses strong discontent and anger. And instead of blaming this class for exploiting the hardships of the masses, we absolve it and instead blame the Palestinians, or the provocateurs and saboteurs, or the war expenses over the past 20 years.

Those who see that a certain class is becoming richer every day while they themselves are becoming poorer cannot believe such claims.

National unity can be achieved only in an interdependent, harmonious, and materially and spiritually integrated society to which every citizen feels he belongs and of which he would like to become a part. But this cannot be achieved in a society in which regional isolationism or class and communal strifes are daily stirred up in order to provide an excuse for oppression and exploitation and for the denunciation of the forces of progress and enlightenment.

What we need is not a change of persons or cabinets. What we need before anything else is sincerity in thought and action.

SOVIETS PLAN EXPLOITING NILE WATERS IN ETHIOPIA

LD151828Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 May 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The Egyptian and Sudanese ministers of irrigation are currently studying with interest reports that the Soviets are active in the area around the Nile headwaters in the Ethiopian Plateau.

The reports say that the Soviets are studying plans for the Tana Lake, which holds 85 percent of the Nile waters, with the aim of proposing new projects to Ethiopia.

Observers believe that by such action the Soviets are playing a dangerous game aimed at creating disputes between Ethiopia and its neighbors, in view of the fact that the status of sharing the Nile waters was established some 100 years ago.

Contacts are currently taking place between the eight countries forming the authority of the Nile Valley Basin--Egypt, Sudan, Rwanda, Zaire, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda [as published]--in order to include Ethiopia in the authority. The authority aims at studying and developing the Nile waters of its member states. The authority will hold its first meeting in June in Nairobi.

Minister of Irrigation and of Sudanese Affairs Engineer 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata said that Cairo is following the situation with interest and will not allow the exploitation of the Nile waters for political purposes.

FOREIGN MINISTRY FOLLOWING SITUATION IN ZAIRE

NC151929Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 May--MENA has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is following with interest the situation in Zaire and that the ministry is in touch with the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Zaire to ascertain the facts about the incidents taking place in Shaba Province in western Zaire.

CAIRO RADIO ON AS-SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH TIMES

NC121946Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi]

[Excerpt] The current military relaxation is not peace. Israel is standing in the face of such peace and is trying to obstruct any initiative to achieve it. We must not fall into the same miscalculations into which the United States and the Soviet Union fell before the October 1973 war when they believed that it would be possible to maintain the status quo.

In his interview with the New York TIMES, President as-Sadat warned that Israel is wrong if it believes that the October war will be the last war. It will be wrong so long as it does not contribute to the establishment of peace or so long as it insists on retaining the territories, or on expansion or on undermining our sovereignty through maintaining its settlements in northern Sinai.

Therefore, the whole world, and the United States in particular, must begin to take measures that will pressure Israel into following the course of peace. This will prevent the alternative course from which the area has suffered over the past 30 years.

It remains for Israel to understand that Egypt and its leadership are fully determined to recover every inch of the occupied territories and to restore every right of the Palestinians.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS TANZANIAN, U.S. ENVOYS

NC111332Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 May 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with Tanzanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Room. The two men reviewed the developments of the situation in Africa and the Middle East and also discussed the matters connected with the OAU summit conference slated for convocation in Khartoum next July. The two ministers also reviewed existing bilateral relations and the means for developing them.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil also met today with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. This meeting was within the context of the consultations being held on the developments in the Middle East and the efforts being exerted to find a solution to this problem.

TANZANIAN OFFICIAL LEAVES AFTER 3-DAY VISIT

NC121926Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Tanzanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Room left Cairo today after a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the visit the Tanzanian minister handed President as-Sadat a message from Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. The talks centered on African issues and the preparations which are being made for the OAU summit conference scheduled to be held in Khartoum in July.

FRG RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY MINISTER ARRIVES

NC152046Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 May--FRG Minister of Research and Technology Dr Volker Hauff arrived in Cairo from Stuttgart today for a 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he will hold discussions with the Egyptian officials on ways of bolstering cooperation between the two countries in the fields of research and technology, particularly in the field of solar energy.

AS-SADAT SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON MORO'S DEATH

NC111330Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 11 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 May--President Anwar as-Sadat has emphasized that the criminal and treacherous attack which claimed the life of the Italian leader, Aldo Moro, is a violation of the simplest humanitarian principles and a disavowal of ethical values; an attack which is condemned by all honorable forces that are committed to the principles of legitimacy and the rule of law.

This was contained in a cable of condolences which President as-Sadat has sent to Italian President Giovanni Leone. The cable reads:

I have received with extreme grief and distress the news of the assassination of the late Aldo Moro, who devoted his life to the service of the friendly Italian people and to cooperation among all peace-loving people.

This treacherous and criminal attack which has claimed the life of one of the most prominent of Italy's sincere men is a violation of the simplest humanitarian principles and a disavowal of ethical values. It is condemned by all honorable forces that are committed to the principles of legitimacy and the rule of law.

I extend to you and to the family of the departed sincere condolences on my own behalf and on behalf of the Egyptian people. I pray to God that your country will succeed in overcoming these ordeals and in continuing its positive path for the sake of a better future for all peoples.

President as-Sadat has sent the presidential first secretary, 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar, to the Italian Embassy in Cairo to offer condolences on the death of Aldo Moro.

PAPERS COMMENT ON SEIZURE OF PALESTINE 30 YEARS AGO

JN151156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0822 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 May--Today is the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of the Arab land of Palestine and the establishment of the Zionist racist entity in this vital part of the Arab homeland.

After reviewing the phases through which the Palestine issue has passed, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The fact that the Palestine issue is a central, pan-Arab issue will remain a source of conflict between those who understand this fact in a pan-Arab, revolutionary manner and those who want to exploit this fact to continue their hostility toward Palestine and its people.

The paper notes that all the campaigns to repress and liquidate the Palestinian national movement "put on a pseudo-Arab mask." The paper explains: With each campaign, the forces behind the liquidation have always raised a clamor about the pan-Arabism of the battle and used as a pretext their responsibilities toward Palestine, exactly as previous regimes did. After them came Hafiz al-Asad, King Husayn and As-Sadat.

In conclusion, the paper says: While the Arab revolutionary movement is continuing the struggle, it realizes the importance of the presence of a Palestinian revolution taking up positions at the frontlines to confront the designs of the enemies. As it continues its struggle, the Arab revolutionary movement is armed with the confidence of the broadest masses--the biggest giver and responsible for every decision for the revolution's life.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The continuation of the usurpation of Palestine and its consolidation, as well as the usurpation of new parts of the Arab homeland, are necessarily the inevitable outcome of the positions held by the settlement-seeking regimes and the other Arab regimes which support the attitudes of these regimes.

The paper adds: The ugly crime of usurpation committed against our Palestinian Arab people on 15 May 1948 in which the reactionary Arab regimes participated is crowned today, 30 years later, by a new crime committed against this people. This crime is no less ugly than the former crime and is being implemented by official Arab hands, more indulgent in their reaction and agentry than the regimes that existed in the forties.

The paper continues: The 30th anniversary of the usurpation of the Arab land of Palestine is an occasion to intensify the struggle of our Arab masses against the overall unpatriotic stands of these regimes and to work to topple them in order to create progressive bases in the Arab homeland, particularly in the Arab states adjoining occupied Palestine, and in order to enable the Palestinian revolution to achieve its full goals in liberating the usurped land and ending the Zionist occupation.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HAVANA NONALINED CONFERENCE

JN131429Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 May--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad at noon today leading an Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the nonalined movement coordination office to be held in Havana on the day after tomorrow, Monday.

'Alwan told INA that the Iraqi delegation will submit a working paper containing a number of plans and proposals pertaining to the development of the nonalined movement and aimed at insuring that the effectiveness of the movement will increase.

'Alwan said that other Iraqi proposals will be submitted at the meetings, including the condemnation of providing military supplies to the Zionist entity and a call for putting an end to this.

'Alwan also said that the Iraqi delegation has prepared a detailed study on the Zionists' aggressive arms in the conventional and nuclear fields and U.S. support in this regard. He futher said that the Iraqi delegation will submit a proposal to condemn U.S. threats to the Arab oil-producing countries.

It should be recalled that this meeting was originally scheduled to be convened in the Afghan capital and Afghanistan has apologized for not being able to host it.

INTERIOR MINISTER IBRAHIM LEAVES FOR KUWAIT

JN160749Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and interior minister, left for Kuwait this morning to head the Iraqi delegation to the first meeting of the Joint Iraqi-Kuwaiti ministerial committee.

The delegation accompanying Ibrahim is made up of Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and several experts in the fields of industry, agriculture, economy, culture, communications, information, transport and education.

In a predeparture statement, 'Izzat Ibrahim said that the Joint Iraqi-Kuwaiti committee will discuss various topics in an attempt to set up the best formulas for bilateral cooperation and to achieve the objectives which the two countries are endeavoring to realize.

He pointed out that the talks will also deal with political topics which concern Iraq, Kuwait and the Arab nation on the regional and international levels.

'Izzat Ibrahim expressed his confidence that the talks will achieve positive and effective results toward boosting cooperation between the two fraternal countries and benefiting their peoples and the Arab nation.

The meetings of the Joint committee will begin later today.

TASS DELEGATION ARRIVES IN IRAQ ON VISIT

JN151439Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May--A delegation of the Soviet news agency TASS arrived in Baghdad today to visit Iraq at the invitation of INA.

Sergey Losev, deputy director general of TASS and head of the delegation, said that the visit to Iraq is for the purpose of signing an agreement to expand cooperation with INA.

The TASS delegation was met by Ma'adh 'Abd ar-Rahim, the assistant direct or general of INA.

NCC SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT

JN151545Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] today held a session in camera headed by NCC Speaker Ahmad-al-Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other ministers. The statement presented by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to the NCC session held last Monday was discussed. Several council members made statements on the government's foreign policy on the Arab and international levels in light of the prime minister's statement.

At the end of the discussion, the prime minister thanked the NCC speaker and members for their views, advice and remarks on the government's policy. He said that their views were in agreement because they proceed from the same point--the pan-Arab premise. He also thanked them for the style of positive dialog which prevailed during the session. The prime minister clarified certain points which were raised and affirmed that the government will continue this policy of free and responsible dialog with the members of the council.

At the conclusion of the session, the NCC issued the following statement:

1. The National Consultative Council blesses Jordan's initiative to bring about Arab solidarity, unify Arab ranks and mobilize the potentials of the Arab nation in order to build intrinsic Arab power and thereby regain their rights and defend their destiny.

2. The NCC appeals to Arab leaders and the entire Arab nation to respond to this blessed call and contribute to joint action in order to bring about the objectives of this call.

3. The NCC stresses the necessity and importance of Jordan's continuing this pan-Arab call which proceeds from its firm policy of deepening and developing this common Arab movement toward the realization of the supreme Arab objectives in all fields.

4. The NCC calls on the fraternal Arab states to transcend their differences and rise to the level demanded by the fateful pan-Arab issues, primarily the issue of Palestine.

5. The NCC appeals to the Arab nation to support and back Jordan and the other confrontation states in their steadfastness and to complement their power to confront the common enemy and his expansionist designs.

6. The NCC stressed the importance of building the domestic front on the basis of national unity, responsible liberty and good citizenship.

7. The NCC welcomes the government's presentation of its foreign policy in the frank style and spirit of consultation which were manifested in the prime minister's statement and during the council's debate on the statement. It confirms its cooperation in support of any policy which epitomizes the pan-Arab and national line. The council takes its inspiration from this line in drawing up its policies and plans.

The NCC decided to form a committee headed by NCC Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and including the members of the Foreign Relations Committee to draft a reply to the government statement.

HUSAYN RECEIVES EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK

JN151827Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn tonight received Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak, who conveyed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat dealing with Arab relations and developments in the Middle East question and the international question.

Vice President Mubarak held comprehensive talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on common Arab issues.

The talks were resumed during the banquet held at the Hashimiyah Palace tonight and attended by Prince Muhammad, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the minister of state for foreign affairs, a number of other ministers and the commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces. The banquet was also attended by the delegation accompanying Vice President Mubarak and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

Vice President Mubarak arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 1-day official visit to Jordan. He was met by the prime minister, the speaker of the National Consultative Council, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court ministers, ministers and a number of senior officials.

JORDANIAN DELEGATION RETURNS FROM MOROCCO

JN151550Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 15 May--The official Jordanian delegation accompanying His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on his current visit to the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco returned to Amman today.

Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade, stated that the Jordanian and Moroccan sides held several working sessions, during which they discussed all spheres of cooperation so as to achieve continuous and integrated cooperation between the two countries.

He said that the two sides agreed that their cooperation should complement the strong political relations which link the two countries under the directives of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II.

The minister added that the two sides signed five agreements on cooperation in the fields of science, economy, tourism and air and maritime transport.

SUPPLIES MINISTER RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS

JN151557Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 15 May--Marwan al-Qasim, minister of supplies, returned to Amman today at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the Jordanian minister met with Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and Muhammad Ghubash, minister of supply and internal trade, and discussed with them the bases for cooperation between the two fraternal countries in various fields.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS EXPLAIN REASONS FOR RESIGNATION WITHDRAWAL

NC151523Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting at 1300 today under the chairmanship of his excellency the president of the republic, in the presence of the prime minister and the other ministers. The meeting lasted until 1430, after which the following official information was released:

His Excellency President Sarkis began the session by making a speech in which he said: During the difficult conditions under which I assumed office, the national interest dictated that priority should be given to the questions of security in order to put an end to the fighting in our land and to form a cabinet in which all parties were represented, to reunite the ranks and emphasize national unity, which all desire. In addition to being the target of the state and the homeland, national unity is the best guarantee for speeding up the reconstruction process. We have strived for a long time to form a coalition government. The state of affairs in the country required the formation of such a government. I do not think anybody has forgotten the unenviable situation in which we found ourselves. Every passing day further deteriorated and aggravated the situation and threatened the disappearance of what was left of the characteristics of the state. In view of the obstacles to the formation of a coalition government, we formed a nonpolitical government, leaving it for time and good efforts to bring closer the various sides and views.

It is enough to recall our situation 2 years ago to appreciate the great strides we have made. Despite this, we continued our efforts to form a comprehensive and all-embracing party government in which national unity would be clearly manifested. We held continuous contacts, consultations and negotiations and resorted to all methods and means to realize this. All have gratefully participated in these efforts.

It was natural that the recent signs of positive rapproachement should culminate in the formation of a national union government. On the basis of these encouraging facts and out of a desire to provide an opportunity for the formation of the sought-after government, the present cabinet submitted its resignation. We immediately began our consultations and did our best to come up with a suitable formula with the speed dictated, nay imposed, by the circumstances. However, these efforts failed to produce the desired results. I again found myself, just as when I began exercising the duties of the presidency, in a situation which made further prolongation of the cabinet crisis impermissible. In addition to the political considerations and their ramifications, there are projects which we must start implementing. The plans for these projects have been prepared. Their implementation will be of great benefit to us and will help in solving the political problems.

We cannot under any circumstances permit the retreat of the march we have started. This is the march of rebuilding the country. It requires the existence of a government to hold the reins of power. Here, we found ourselves facing two options. The first was to form a nonpolitical government along the pattern of the present one, the second was for the present cabinet to continue in office. We chose the latter solution because the government which prepared the plans for reconstruction, various organizations, the draft budget for the current year and other things which it is not necessary to mention, is better suited to continue the implementation of all this because it is in a better position to grasp what it planned and hence more capable of implementing its plans more quickly and more effectively.

In any case, we look forward with hope to the day we are able to form a government which will be fully representative. We will continue our efforts to achieve this because we believe in the need for such a government and in its role in speeding up the realization of true Lebanese fraternity.

On leaving the presidential palace, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made the following statement: When his excellency the president of the republic charged me with forming a new government, we intended to form a coalition government--a national union government--which would represent all the active political trends in the Lebanese arena, because of our faith that the formation of such a government would help the creation of an atmosphere of tranquillity, stability and continuous dialog that would enable the government to make a new surge along the path of national detente and reconstruction. However, the exhaustive efforts we exerted in all directions and on all levels to realize this demand have, very regrettably, clashed with contradictory stands and obstacles which prevented the attainment of the positive result we desired. It was not possible to surmount, transcend or disregard these difficulties at this stage. In these circumstances, I had no option but to discontinue efforts to form the government and withdraw the resignation so that the present government might resume exercising its responsibilities and full legal powers. Therefore, I proposed this to his excellency the president of the republic, and he agreed.

The delicate circumstances through which the homeland is passing and the consequent enormous responsibilities and duties they place on the government call for an end to the stage of discharging caretaker duties which the government undertook when it submitted its resignation. The government's withdrawal of its resignation expresses the full determination of the government to reassume its full responsibilities in all fields, mobilizing all its resources and capacities. Our primary aim will be the realization of comprehensive national detente. We hope that the country will soon reach a stage that permits the formation of a national government.

SYRIAN GENERAL MEETS WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS 15 MAY

NC151238Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Syrian Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli visited B'abda Palace at about 1300 today and had a brief meeting with President Sarkis. The speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Kamil al-As'ad, joined the meeting in progress.

Newsmen were speculating that Al-Khuli had come on an unexpected mission in light of the current political and security developments. However, Al-Khuli dispelled such speculation when he declared upon leaving the palace that he had come to greet President Sarkis on the occasion of his arrival in Beirut to visit former president Sulayman Franjiyah and to inquire about his health.

Brigadier General al-Khuli denied that he had had political talks. He then left for Damascus.

PSP CRITICIZES STATEMENT BY UN COMMANDER ERSKINE

JN151835Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 May--The Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has criticized the statements made by Emmanuel Erskine, commander of the UN forces in Lebanon, which were published today in the magazine MONDAY MORNING. Erskine said that the UN Security Council resolution conflicts with the agreements concluded between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian resistance.

In a statement issued today following a meeting headed by Walid Junblatt, the PSP affirmed that Erskine's mission is confined to supervising the UN forces in southern Lebanon and the Israeli withdrawal. He does not have the authority to interpret UN Security Council resolutions. The statement added that the UN forces have no right to prevent the Lebanese people from using all available means to struggle against occupation.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT CRITICIZES UNIFIL PERFORMANCE

JN160844Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 May--The Joint Command of the Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon has held the command of the UN troops responsible for the continued Zionist violations of Lebanese sovereignty.

In a statement issued last night, the command said that the UN troops had failed to bring about the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution which provides for full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied southern area. These troops have also failed to take up their positions on the new line of contact with the aggressors, following the enemy's partial withdrawal. This has enabled the enemy to violate Lebanese territory at any time and in any place, the Nationalist Movement added.

The Joint Command of the Nationalist Movement said that the UN troops' attitude constitutes a blatant deviation from the UN Security Council and a coverup for the continued actual occupation.

The statement called on all Arab and international forces to intervene to put an end to the deviation of the UN troops from their actual mission.

BEIRUT: 80 PERCENT OF EVACUEES RETURN HOME

NC151533Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Life in the south is returning to normal as the Lebanese legal authority continues to assert itself through its various organs and through the continuous efforts to insure the maximum possible social and security stability.

The best proof of this is the fact that 80 percent of the evacuees have returned to their homes and villages, together with those who remained outside the border areas.

The UNIFIL units continue to take up positions and to position themselves in areas specified for them on various roads. They have also been bolstered by additional elements of the internal security forces to facilitate their cooperation and dealings with the population and to enable the legal authorities to assume their work in a normal manner.

AFP: GUERRILLAS WITHDRAW FROM BEHIND UN LINES NEAR TYRE

TA151857Y Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 15 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 15, (AFP)--About 80 Palestinian guerrillas have withdrawn without incident after infiltrating behind United Nations lines near the south Lebanese port of Tyre, and being surrounded since last night, reports from the region said tonight. They were surrounded near the village of Barish, 10 kms (six miles) northeast of Tyre, by Norwegian, French and Senegalese units.

POLICE CONFERENCE TO BE ATTENDED BY IRAQI CHIEF

JN121330Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 12 May--The major general director general [title as received; no name given] of the Iraqi police and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this afternoon to participate in the meetings of the sixth conference of Arab police commanders which will begin tomorrow.

Conference Opens

JN131506Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the sixth conference of Arab police chiefs was opened at the Hall of the People's Assembly at 1000 today. The president deputized Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh, minister of interior, to attend this celebration on his behalf.

Brig Gen Dabbagh delivered a speech in which he welcomed the heads and members of the delegations participating in the conference. He said: It gives us optimism and satisfaction that the sixth conference of Arab police chiefs is being held to discuss matters related to the security of the Arab homeland and to find ways to protect it against crime. This conference is taking place at a time when Zionism and imperialism are committing the ugliest crimes against our territories and the people of our nation in more than one place. The foremost of these crimes are those acts practiced against our kindred in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon. Thus Zionism and imperialism defy the Arab nation's will and its ability to stand fast in the face of the dangers threatening it. This gives us the motivation to work in a serious and organized manner to consolidate Arab cooperation and solidarity within the framework of a clear strategy so as to achieve the common Arab interests, above all the matter of security.

Syria's belief that the question of Arab security is an area-wide and inseparable issue prompted President al-Asad's action and Syria's sacrifices to save Lebanon, maintain the unity of its land and people, and stop the spilling of Arab blood. The prudent leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad understood the importance of Syria's role in the Arabs' struggle against their enemies, against these enemies' attempts to dissipate our resolve and to distract us from exercising our role. Thus Syria directed its efforts toward building a strong economic structure and a unified internal national front in which all forces and potentials can take part. Moreover, it established the constitutional institutions and promoted the concept of popular democracy by providing the opportunity for the broadest sections of the populace to contribute to the building of a modern state and the intrinsic power which together are capable of steadfastness and bounty.

OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR NONALINED MEETING IN HAVANA

JN151638Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Havana at noon today to head the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the coordination bureau of the nonalined countries which will be held in the Cuban capital 15-20 May.

The Syrian delegation will raise several issues pertaining to the situation in the Middle East, the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Palestinian question.

LIBYA

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER LEAVES LIBYA AFTER VISIT

LD151944Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira left Tripoli this evening at the end of his 4-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he conducted talks with brother officials.

Joint Communique Issued

LD151946Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] The following joint communique was released in both Tripoli and Tunis today on the talks which took place in Tripoli during the visit by Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Hedi Nouira to the Jamahiriyah from 12 to 15 May 1978:

Proceeding from the bases reached by President Habib Bourguiba and Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, for the consolidation of the ties of historic fraternity between the two sister countries, and in accordance with the joint communique issued by the two political leaderships during the period 13 to 18 December 1972; to resume the joint constructive action which proceeds from the old historic ties between the two sister countries, their common fate and their aspiration for integration, cohesion and unity; within the framework of the convening of the fourth session of the joint higher committee, Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Hedi Nouira paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of his brother, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee of the Jamahiriyah, from 12 to 15 May 1978.

The prime minister was accompanied by an important delegation composed of Mohamed Fitouri, foreign minister; Mustapha Zaanouni, minister delegate attached to the prime minister charged with planning; 'Abd al-Hamid 'Ammar, Tunisian delegate to Libya; and Hamed el Abed, legal adviser to the Tunisian Government and head of the prime minister's office.

Taking part on the Libyan side were Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; Musa Abu Furaywah, planning secretary; Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani, communications secretary; and 'Abd al-Hamid az-Zintani, Libyan delegate general to Tunisia.

During his visit, Prime Minister Nouira met Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress. They reviewed relations between the two sister countries in all fields. Their views were identical on the consolidation, deepening and strengthening of these relations in a manner that realizes the interests of the peoples of both countries and their common aspirations.

He also had a meeting with Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humayii, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress and commander of the popular resistance. Their talks dealt with the consolidation of relations between the two fraternal countries.

In a fraternal and cordial atmosphere, the two delegations, led by Brother Hedi Nouira, prime minister of the Tunisian Republic, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah, held important talks in which total understanding and the will to broaden bilateral relations and make them more comprehensive prevailed.

In its meetings, the higher committee reviewed the results of the talks held by the subcommittees and the positive development of various aspects of economic activity and cultural and manpower cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

At the end of the talks, Brother Hedi Nouira, the Tunisian prime minister, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah, signed the minutes of the meeting, which stipulate, in particular, the following:

1. To consolidate and develop cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the agricultural sphere;

2. To consolidate their efforts to complete the technical and economic studies relating to transportation, sea and land communications and telecommunications projects;

3. To continue efforts to consolidate industrial cooperation and integration between the two countries;

4. To reaffirm the increase of trade within the framework of the princple which gives priority to supplying each country with the products of the other;

5. To consolidate cooperation in the sphere of vocational training and labor;

6. To work to carry out the measures relating to the transfer and residence of the two countries' citizens.

On this occasion, an agreement was signed to avoid double taxation of incomes. The two sides initialed this agreement on 28 August 1973.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results of this meeting, which are apt to give bilateral relations a new momentum in an aim to reach the common goal.

The joint higher committee has laid down a program for the meetings of the specialized subcommittees which will be held on fixed dates during the coming period; the results of these meetings will be submitted to the next meeting of the joint higher committee. Agreement was reached that the joint higher committee will hold its next meeting in Tunis during December 1978 to continue the work to consolidate cooperation between the two fraternal countries in a manner that realizes the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples for progress and prosperity.

Tripoli, 15 May 1978

ETHIOPIAN MINISTER CONCLUDES ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS

LD121138Y Tripoli JANA in English 1009 GMT 12 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 12, JANA--The Ethiopian industry minister, Mr Nissias Dinga [title and name as received], yesterday left Tripoli after a few-days visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he held discussions with officials here concerning the strengthening of relations and economic co-operation between the two friendly countries. The Ethiopian minister was seen off by Mr Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, the treasury secretary, and a representative of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Secretariat.

SDAR PRIME MINISTER PROMISES CONTINUATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE

LD121046Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed held a press conference yesterday evening at Ash-Shati' Hotel in Tripoli, at which he spoke about the main dimension of French intervention in Saqiyah al-Hamra, and about the armed struggle which the Saharan Arab people are waging against imperialism and colonialism. The SDAR prime minister warned foreigners in combat areas of the consequences of their entry into these areas in the future, whether by land or by sea. He said that they would be exposed to danger.

At the end of this press conference Mohamed Ould Ahmed stressed that the just fight and struggle which the Saharan people are waging for the liberation of their land would continue. After the press conference the SDAR prime minister answered questions asked by Arab and foreign reporters and world news agencies.

MOROCCO

PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES ARRIVES IN FEZ

LD152339Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Summary] Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares arrived in Fez a short while ago from Casablanca at the head of an important delegation. At Fez airport he was welcomed by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman and others.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES, MEETS WITH KING HASSAN

LD150010Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Summary] This evening his majesty the king gave a dinner party at the royal palace in Fez in honor of Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah, who had arrived in Morocco earlier. Present at the dinner party were members of the government, headed by the prime minister, members of the accompanying delegation and senior officials. Earlier, his majesty had private talks with the Mauritanian president lasting 1 and 1/2 hours.

SUDAN

TANZANIAN, SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MEET

LD132006Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Dr Francis Deng, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Muhammad 'Ali, Tanzanian minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, who arrived in Khartoum day before yesterday with a letter from President Nyerere for President Numayri. The two officials discussed matters of bilateral interest, as well as preparations for the forthcoming summit in Khartoum.

Meeting With Vice President

JN142152Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and minister of foreign affairs, today received Muhammad 'Ali, minister of state in the Tanzanian Foreign Ministry.

Bakr received from the Tanzanian minister a message to President Numayri from Tanzanian President Nyerere. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of interest to the African Continent and bilateral relations.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA URGES RESPECT FOR LAW

LD121607Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 7 May 78 pp 2, 7 LD

[Report on speech by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira in Ariana on 6 May]

[Excerpt] Our main concern is to distribute the fruits of development as fairly as possible among all those who contribute to it. Indeed, this is why we take care to insure both the country's development and its equilibrium among individuals, generations and regions.

I will not exaggerate if I say that we have been successful in this task. In fact, if Tunisia enjoys an excellent reputation in foreign financial circles it is mainly because of the capital of confidence which it has been able to acquire by keeping its promises on time. This capital of confidence is a considerable achievement on our part. Any assertion to the contrary on the ground of some futile reasons or some unimportant grievances would be tantamount to self-abuse. The upheavals which took place in 1976 belong to the category of these harmful activities. As a result of the various strikes which occurred in the year in question, 3 million working hours were lost. On the national scale this figure may seem insignificant but at an enterprise level it assumes an obvious importance. Such strikes are dangerous, especially when they affect sensitive sectors. This perhaps explains why public enterprises suffered most in 1976 and 1977. The aim of the instigators of these strikers, who call themselves socialists, was to destroy the public sector. Their objectives were purely political and they completely ignored any economic or social aspect of the question. These people believed that the government and state had collapsed in Tunisia. All this had painful consequences--many lives were lost and the country's reputation suffered. In the psychological sphere, the perpetrators of these deeds wanted to plunge Tunisian society into discord and anarchy.

They reckoned that the government would not react. However, the people themselves reacted, because our Tunisian people have sound views and react in a sound manner. Their attitude proved equal to our expectations. In fact, the people might have reacted bluntly and the consequences of such a reaction could have been incalculable. We must now draw conclusions from all this. The lesson we must learn is that we must always give others the benefit of the doubt, but that, at the same time, we must occasionally indulge in self-criticism to identify our weaknesses and mitigate them. Some people could think that the events which occurred in this country were a result of a certain repression, a certain oppression and absence of dialog. And yet, during the past 2 years, we have heard and read many things and we have had discussions lasting many hours. My answer to those who accuse us of taking repressive measures is merely this: Under a repressive regime, there are no strikes. If we had been stubborn, we would never have indulged in self-criticism. In short, the events which took place at the beginning of this year have shown:

That many people entrusted with responsibilities have proved unworthy of them;

And that no one is entitled to assume responsibilities. In a sphere as difficult as that of political responsibilities and development you cannot afford to make mistakes.

We are not afraid of criticism. We want to give a regular account of our acts and take the consequences by abiding by the verdict of the people. The best proof of this has been provided by the recent parliamentary byelections in Bizerte, during which one citizen was able to stand as independent candidate. We believe that this is what genuine democracy means. The people are the only arbiter. As for those who advance ideas different from ours, we ask them to present their programs. In any case, there must be cohesion and solidarity in the realm of thought, for I can hardly see how certain people can reconcile communism, Ba'thism, Marxism and integrism. The resulting mixture must necessarily be very suspect. As for us, we trust only people whose past is sound. We do not whisper this in corners, we state it loud and clear everywhere. We have never pretended to be infallible, since every human effort can be subject to criticism. However, we take care to insure that we have all chances of success on our side. We do this in the interest of those who have entrusted us with the task of managing their affairs. This is to say that efforts directed at development, that is, a guarantee for a maximum of preconditions for progress and prosperity, is a political action in the full sense of these words, since a hungry man who suffers watching his children wasting away and wonders in agony about his and his children's future cannot be considered a free man.

He cannot be asked to take an interest in public affairs. What freedom means to us is that a man is able to provide for his basic needs, otherwise, he could easily fall victim to any current and any covetousness. The task of insuring this kind of freedom is a long-term one. At this point I must emphasize that in all organized societies there is always a law which must be respected. Respect for law means that all concerned have the duty to refrain from slandering and libeling other people. We were confronted with agitation--verbal at first and brutal at a later stage--exactly because no respect was shown for law. Whenever any law is obsolete, it is always possible to revise it.

We showed considerable tolerance and this led certain people to believe that they could do whatever they liked. This was the origin of the 26 January events, from which the following conclusion should be drawn: People must respect and submit to law. What right have certain people to insult the courts and law? Do they think that they are above the law? Therefore, we have the duty to intervene whenever anyone tries to break the law. By doing this we will insure that the Tunisians become civilized people. Once this is done you will know whenever anyone knocks at your door in the early hours of the morning that it is the milkman, not someone else.

We work with this end in mind. Perhaps we have not satisfied all the desires of the Tunisian people, but we have spared no effort to satisfy as many of them as possible and, as far as we are concerned, we do not try to sow seeds of doubt among people. Those who try to do this show their unconcern for people, their obsequiousness with respect to the people, especially young people, and, finally, contempt for the same people. Dialog calls for ethics and politics call for morality.

BRIEFS

MOROCCAN-FRENCH AGREEMENT--Rabat, MAP--At the invitation of the Moroccan Government a French maritime delegation headed by Mr Pierre Leonard, director of the merchant marine and naval equipment at the French Ministry of Transport, has concluded an agreement with a Moroccan delegation headed by Mr Mohamed Lfal, director of the merchant marine and sea fishing. This agreement relates to the development of a Franco-Moroccan maritime agreement plan. This agreement will make it possible to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, based on reciprocity and mutual interest, in their maritime activities. These negotiations have again shown the identity of views of the two governments in a field that is essential for the development of their economies. [Text] [Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 8 May 78 LD]

BEGIN DISCUSSES SENATE DECISION ON ARMS SALE

TA161228Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 May 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] This morning the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held a meeting at the Knesset building. The session was devoted to the approval of the package deal, the threefold aircraft deal, by the U.S. Senate. Prime Minister Menahem Begin appeared before the members of the committee. Our Knesset correspondent Razi Barqa'i has details on the session. [begin recording]

The prime minister told members of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that he neither wanted to nor tried to lessen the gravity of the issue. Mr Begin said that the next cabinet session on Sunday will be devoted to the subject and we shall then have to consider our political way. At the end of the session the prime minister made the following comments to correspondents.

[Begin] The government expresses deep sorrow about the Senate approval of the administration's proposal regarding the linking of the supply of aircraft to Israel with the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia and to Egypt. The U.S. commitment of September 1975 regarding the supply of aircraft, specifically F-16's, was absolute and unconditional, and therefore there was no justification in linking the supply of these aircraft to us with any kind of supply to the Arab countries.

The aircraft that will be supplied during the 1980's to Saudi Arabia are modern aircraft. There is here definitely a negative shift as far as Israel's security is concerned. The government has opposed what is called the package deal and has also objected to the supply to the two Arab countries that are in a state of war with Israel.

As for the future, at the cabinet's next session we shall discuss what we will do and we will be able to publish an announcement.

So much for the prime minister's words after the session. Let us just add that in the course of the session this morning, the Alinement members in the committee leveled serious criticism on the government's way of handling the package deal affair. MK's Rabin, Peres, Bar-Lev, Allon, Sarid and Talmi argued that the government stuttered and was not decisive in the objection it expressed to the supply of weapons to the Arabs. The Alinement spokesmen also argued that the prime minister did not initiate a talk on the matter with President Carter when he met with him recently.

On the other hand, MK Moshe Shamir from the Likud said that this is the time to inform the United States that our peace plan is shelved. It is inconceivable that we shall be fooled, MK Shamir said. Naturally, no conclusions were reached in the committee, but we will probably be able to hear reactions by members of the Knesset during the week. [end recording]

PERES, ARENS COMMENT ON PACKAGE DEAL

TA160753Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 May 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] This morning we asked MK Shim'on Peres, the opposition leader, for his views on the aircraft package deal. I hope he is on our telephone line:

[Announcer] Good morning, MK Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Announcer] In your opinion, sir, does this victory for the administration indicate closer ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia and Egypt at the expense of the traditional strong ties of the United States with Israel?

[Peres] I think this is a sad day in Israel-U.S. relations. I think it is a day which also shows the weakness of our government's activity there because the meaning is as follows: This is one of the first times, perhaps the only time, we have suffered such a defeat in the Senate. From time to time the administration has tried to take steps against us, but it was the Senate which balanced the administration's activity. Second, it is not a matter of supplying weapons to Saudi Arabia, but this is a supply of the world's most sophisticated weapons in the field of aeronautics. The F-15 is a long-range aircraft which can carry sophisticated weapons. It changes Saudi Arabia from a neutral country to a more problematic country because strategic planners will not be able to accept the justifications that will come from Washington; they will always remember the number of the aircraft and their quality. [word indistinct] Egypt is given arms even before the negotiations for peace between us are over.

I was very surprised to find that some members of the cabinet said that they did not raise the subject in Washington during one or another visit, because, they said it would be interference in U.S. internal affairs. This involves no interference on the part of Israel in U.S. affairs. On the contrary, this is a U.S. ruling on a new situation in the Middle East. It has to do directly with our security, with our future. I regard it with the greatest possible severity. I was not impressed with the tactics of the prime minister, who thinks that in one visit the matters should or should not be raised. Where weapons are concerned--whether the supply to our enemies or the supply to us--all prime ministers and all foreign ministers and defense ministers have dealt with it with unlimited vigor because the distribution of arms is like the distribution of power. If we are deprived of strength and it is given to our enemies, of course there is a change in the Middle Eastern status.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Peres, in September, in September, 1975, you were in the government that reached an interim agreement with Egypt. An appendix to that agreement was a further agreement with the United States, which included various issues about weapons supply or non-supply to Arab countries. To what extent does the decision now counter a clear commitment by the United States?

[Peres] In my opinion it contradicts the U.S. promise of arms to Israel and of course also contradicts previous commitments by making the supply to Israel conditional upon supplying arms to its enemies; it is in contradiction to the agreement. The agreement was directly between us and the United States, and it regarded Israel as a country capable of balancing its power, and perhaps even maintaining [words indistinct], and as a result of that agreement the F-15 is in Israel today.

[Announcer] MK Peres, do you think that the process that in fact is taking place in the United States, in Washington--the growing strength of the Saudi lobby, the fact that the United States is perhaps more interested in the flow of oil, in the stability of the dollar, which would also cause a manageable rate of inflation, and the price of oil--is perhaps the major interest in the United States today, more than the commitment to Israel's security?

[Peres] I do not believe in appending processes, and of course we cannot change the world, but we can deal with our own world. The relations with Saudi Arabia did not begin yesterday or the day before; neither did the need for oil begin this morning. It exists.

There was deep sympathy for Israel which we have cultivated with unending energy both in the U.S. public and in the U.S. Senate, and we have similarly always had long and fierce arguments with U.S. administrations. Things have weakened under the present government's rule even though at the start it said that it would deepen the contacts with the United States. Instead of deepening them, they have now become much more superficial and worrying.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Mr Peres.

We shall have the reaction of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Prof Moshe Arens, as well. Good morning, Professor Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Announcer] You have heard the head of the opposition's words...

[Arens] Partly...

[Announcer] Perhaps you have some views.

[Arens] I would prefer to react to the event itself rather than to Peres' statements, which I have only partly heard.

[Announcer] As you please.

[Arens] This is not good news. I think that the worst aspect of the decision has to do with the fact that it does not advance the chances for peace in the area since it has a negative effect on the balance of power. Certainly it gives the Arab world ideas about the possibilities of a military option in the future and I think that, for the moment, what is important is that we give thought to what we must do and what conclusions we must draw from this situation. I think the most striking thing is that if 4 years ago the government had ordered the plan for developing the Israeli combat aircraft, of course, the situation would have been entirely different, and we might even have been able to prevent the supply of other new aircraft to the Arab armies and our own situation would have been better. Therefore, in my opinion, it is necessary to decide to order the development of our own aircraft and only in this way is it possible to improve and insure the balance of power in the area.

[Announcer] MK Arens, do you think enough was done to clarify Israel's opinion to the U.S. Senators, for up to a day before the vote there was no clear-cut announcement of Israel's position, and perhaps as a result of this, senators who are usually friends of Israel did not know how to act?

[Arens] I am not well enough acquainted with the details of the information work in Washington to say if enough was done or not. I suppose our people there made an effort to clarify our stance. I assume that regarding the senators in Washington there was no doubt about Israel's position. However, as we heard, extremely heavy pressure on the part of the administration was exerted on them, and this reflects the policy of President Carter to focus and concentrate on Saudi Arabia and to demand that Israel take risks upon itself.

[Unidentified reporter] Professor Arens, this morning, after the vote in the Senate, there was disappointment here in Jerusalem, but the tone was not so bad. The Israeli reaction was not too sharp. Do you think that it was expected and that it was not that bad and that the Senate's decision is not the end of the earth?

[Arens] I would say that this is a sharp turn which is definitely not in the right direction. On the other hand, I would say that if we draw the right conclusions from it and if that results in ordering the development of an Israeli combat aircraft, then perhaps some good will come out of a bad thing.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Mr Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens.

Reactions to Senate Vote

TA160820Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 May 78 TA

[Text] The American Senate has voted in favor of President Carter's Middle East arms package deal. We bring you this special report from our Washington correspondent Connie Lon:

Despite official denials by the Carter administration, Israel and the friends of Israel in the United States have suffered their first major defeat in the U.S. Congress. By a vote of 44 to 54, the senators failed to block President Carter's proposed package of warplanes to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The administration argued publicly it was a victory for Israel because more planes will be sent to Jerusalem in coming years; but privately, White House aides Hamilton Jordan and Jody Powell gloated to selected newsmen they had broken the back of the Israeli lobby and are now free to make Mideast policy without outside interference. The men denied those remarks which many in Washington labeled as clearly anti-Semitic, but several authoritative sources in Washington heard them say it.

Opponents of the sales argue Israel can never again trust American guarantees of security nor make territorial concessions because the United States requests them. This argument was advanced by Senator Frank Church, the future head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. [begin recording]

[Church] The human feelings that I think anyone can forecast in Israel is a bowing of the back, a determination that they'll have to look for their own resources and less to the United States. It's not going to mean more flexibility; it's going to mean less: it's not going to brighten the hopes of peace, it's going to diminish them. [end recording]

Church also stressed to the Senate Israel's position as a bulwark against communism in the Mideast. He said he bases his support of Israel on sincere conviction and not on political reasons for, in his words, there are hardly any Jews in Idaho.

Another opponent of the sales, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, argues the 60 F-15's for Saudi Arabia will do little to stem the tide of communism in the area. According to him, the United States is retreating all over the world in the face of Soviet aggression and another few warplanes to Saudi Arabia are not going to change America's policy of appeasement.

Senator Joseph Biden, whose disapproval amendment was defeated in the Senate, says the vote contributes to greater instability in the region. Calling it a defeat for a sound policy in the Mideast, Biden said Israel now has no further incentives to make concessions. He pointed out Israel has made concessions in the past including the return of the Abu-Rudays oilfields in exchange for the constant promises of Secretary Kissinger that no concessions would be made to the Arab countries.

Senator Jacob Javits said he hopes the vote will not make Israelis feel they've been cut loose by the United States. He refused to go as far as Senator Church in calling it a new U.S. policy, but said it signals a change in U.S.-Israeli relations.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington promptly issued a statement expressing Israel's deep concern that a supply of a vast weapons system, including modern aircraft, to countries maintaining a state of war with Israel. [as heard] The spokesman expressed again Israel's concern as to the linkage of long standing commitments made to Israel for the supply of aircraft with the supply to other countries. He added the whole matter of the supply of aircraft will shortly be discussed by the cabinet. The vote does not mean Israel will never again be favored by the American Congress, but it is indeed a bad sign for the immediate future.

This is Connie Lon in Washington returning you to Jerusalem.

Dayan on Package Deal

TA161104Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 May 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said this morning in Helsinki that, as in the past, he objects to the U.S. aircraft package deal. Speaking to correspondents before he took off for Copenhagen, Dayan said that his objection stems from the state of war maintained by the Arab countries against Israel. The United States should have supplied aircraft to each country separately but should not have linked the three deals together.

Dayan added that no Saudi assurance that the aircraft will be used for defensive purposes alone is acceptable to Israel because there may be political changes in Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand, the foreign minister thinks that the deal will not harm relations between Israel and the United States.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will be received today by Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen, Foreign Minister Knud Andersen and Queen Margrethe II.

The Danish paper AKTUELT, Denmark's ruling Socialist Party organ, writes in today's front page headline: Denmark Will Present Minister Dayan Its Position: Peace Now.

Weizman on Senate Decision

TA161107Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez and M. Shemariyahu]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said this morning, in reaction to the U.S. Senate decision on the sale of planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt: "I regret that all this has happened. We fought against this and I hope that we will not have to fight against those planes."

The minister of defense refrained from adding any details and made the remarks less than an hour before taking off to visit an IDF unit with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan.

Senior military elements said this morning that the Senate decision will have a negative effect from Israel's point of view on the balance of arms in the Middle East. It will force Israel to take special steps against Saudi Arabia in the event of war.

KUWAITI PRESS REPORT ON IDF DEFECTOR DENIED

TA151323Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 May 78 p 8 TA

[Text] Israeli sources said this morning that they did not know of any Israeli soldiers who had defected in southern Lebanon and surrendered to any terrorist organization, apart from Avraham 'Amram who was captured and is being held by the terrorists.

These words were in response to a report that appeared yesterday in the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, which claimed that an Israeli soldier defected a month ago from the IDF and asked to meet the Fatah leader. The soldier, whose name was not disclosed, suggested in his talk with 'Arafat that he join the Palestinians and fight with them.

"His suggestion was accepted," the Kuwaiti paper writes, "and he is now operating with the Palestinian guerrilla fighters in southern Lebanon."

WEIZMAN HOPEFUL ON CONTACTS WITH EGYPT

TA151832Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Now to the political issue. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman expressed his hope again this evening that there will be positive developments in the contacts with Egypt in the attempts to find a settlement for peace. The minister of defense was speaking at the Bayt Haloham in Afeqa at a meeting with members of the Peace Pact from Philadelphia who contributed to the establishment of soldiers' houses in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Our correspondent Beni Rom reports:

We are at the height of an important period, but one which is full of reversals. In such a period, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said, words may often be more dangerous than bullets. As one who participated in all the contacts between Israel and Egypt to date and as one who has visited Egypt five times during the negotiations, the defense minister said: [begin recording]

[Weizman--in English] I do hope, and I am still relatively optimistic, that a process as tremendous as this process that has been started, was started 6 months ago, and that has been going on, cannot go back on its own force and on its own momentum and, in spite of the fact that we might have a crisis here and a crisis there, we are in the midst of a lull in the negotiations. [end recording]

I hope, the defense minister added, that I am not too optimistic. I hope that we will be able soon to report something positive. Before he moved on to reply to questions from those present, Minister Weizman again repeated and recalled that we are in a period during which we should do more and speak less, and then only one question was asked: What attitude should be taken toward As-Sadat? [begin recording]

[Weizman--in English] To your direct question there is a direct answer: Don't trust fully, but don't mistrust. Haggle, deal, negotiate and find a solution. [end recording]

HA'AREZ CITES REASONS FOR MILITARY DELEGATION'S MOVE

TA151230Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The IDF delegation in Egypt has been transferred from At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo to the Egyptian army camp of (Janqlis) near Alexandria. The transfer was coordinated with Israel; the Egyptians need At-Tahirah Palace for high-ranking visitors.

It has been learned that even before the Egyptian decision, a debate was held in Israel about the continuation of the stay of the IDF delegation in Egypt. Among other suggestions, there was one to return the delegation to Israel because the direct negotiations between the two countries have stopped in the last few months. The reason for this suggestion is that if the negotiations are not resumed and a worsening occurs, the Egyptians might ask the delegation to leave and that it is preferable to "anticipate" this.

This proposal has been rejected because the political level in Israel thinks that there is symbolic as well as effective significance to the presence of the IDF delegation in Egypt and to maintaining direct contact with Egypt.

The decision to transfer from At-Tahirah Palace was passed after the Egyptians hinted that they occasionally need the palace to host important visitors. The IDF people occupy only one building of the palace, while the main building is vacant. Israel reacted immediately, suggesting that it is prepared for any settlement which would involve the transfer of the delegation to another place. The Egyptians decided to lodge the delegation in a military camp near Alexandria, where the preliminary talks between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi took place.

With summer approaching, when the temperature in Cairo reaches 40 degrees, it would be more comfortable for the members of the delegation to stay on the coastal area in Alexandria.

POLICE BRUTALITY CHARGED IN JERUSALEM, HEBRON

TA151616Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpts] The mukhtars of the Silwan and the Ra's al-'Amud neighborhoods in East Jerusalem have complained that border policemen deliberately beat up inhabitants of their neighborhoods during a search for the murderers of the soldier Avraham Deutsch last month. They made the complaint during a recent convention held by the Jerusalem municipality. The mukhtars claim that as a result of the beatings some of the inhabitants have remained hospitalized for long periods of time.

The first report on this matter was published last month in the East Jerusalem paper, AL-QUDS. It has been learned that following the mukhtars' complaints, elements in the Jerusalem municipality have approached police elements, requesting an investigation of the matter. The police have conducted an internal investigation but the municipality was not told whether the policemen who beat up the Arab inhabitants were in any way punished.

'Akiva Eldar, HA'AREZ correspondent, reports:

A corporal from the Hebron police and a border policeman were detained yesterday for an investigation and were dismissed from the police forces. They are suspected of using excessively violent measures against an inhabitant of the village of Yattah in the Hebron vicinity. Another policeman, suspected of being an accomplice, will be detained today. A criminal file was opened against the three of them and they will be put on trial after the investigation.

It has been learned that approximately 2 weeks ago the police investigated a case of unnatural death in the village of Yattah. A young inhabitant of the village was summoned to an investigation and was fiercely beaten by the two policemen and the border policeman. Following a complaint to the police southern command an investigation was conducted and the policemen were detained.

CABINET DISCUSSES CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAN

LD151210Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting today under Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar in the prime minister's office. According to our correspondent Barahman Shirzad, at the end of the meeting Daryush Homayun, minister of information and tourism and government spokesman, said the following in answering questions concerning the meeting's agenda: [Begin recording]

[Homayun] In the course of the meeting today, naturally the current situation in the country and the government's statement on these events were reviewed. The statement was discussed, particularly in light of its positive effect on the public and the support it has received from the various classes of the people. It was noted in particular that scientific figures and personalities, as well as educational, economic and social figures have made clear their position on the government's statement. This demonstrates that public opinion in Iran is truly aroused at the agitation and disturbances of the past 2 or 3 months caused by a handful of agitators.

The government's policy during the past 2 or 3 months was based on the premise that it should adopt a lenient approach, while still fulfilling its duties. However, this lenient approach was, unfortunately, abused and misconstrued. It was misconstrued because they thought the government was neglecting its duties or becoming weak; abused because attacks were made on the people's property in various cities by a handful of people, thus disturbing public order in a few places. On the other hand, this lenient approach by the government culminated in revealing the true nature of these elements and showing their insignificance in the midst of 35 million Iranians who love their shah and their country.

During the past 2 or 3 months, we saw that the logic demonstrated by these groups was a logic based on fists, knives and stones; we failed to see anything else. We witnessed the activity of a small minority trying to impose its ideas on a majority through threats, injuries, beatings and the intimidation of others. Obviously, this situation could not be allowed to continue--could no longer be tolerated; consequently, the government reacted.

Since the issuance of the government's statement last week, all responsible officials have been instructed to carry out their lawful duties to the best of their abilities and to crush any trouble decisively and in accordance with the law. The people's support for the government statement is obviously a source of pleasure which will encourage the officials to carry out their duties.

We heard today--and I am sure all of you have also heard this--that for the past few days some sort of psychological warfare has been underway. For example, today would be a day of protest against a rise in gasoline prices. The fact that this decision was taken a few years ago, that it has been in the process of gradual implementation, that prices have not risen excessively and that, compared with a majority of other countries, gasoline prices in Iran are very low, is neither here nor there; this was simply a pretext. These elements announced that if people drove their cars in the streets, their cars would be set on fire, and so forth and so on. Well, this was only a rumor which was spread widely throughout the city. However, you see that nothing has happened and people are going about their work.

People should ignore these rumors and go about their lives and business and resist these provocations and try not to become a tool in their hands.

[Question] As you know, for certain reasons some universities remain closed. Is the government planning to take steps to reopen the universities and have the students return?

[Answer] Obviously the government's aim is to reopen the universities and enable the students to continue their studies. However, both the students and the universities have certain duties as well. If the students are under the illusion that they are attending a university not to study but to create trouble and to stop others from doing their work, then the situation becomes more complex. However, the fundamental idea is what was said before; that is, the universities should reopen and education should continue in a calm atmosphere. This problem will, in any case, be resolved sooner or later. The government cannot tolerate having a minority paralyze the country's higher education and waste young people's time. [end recording]

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr Homayun said that another issue which was discussed by the cabinet was the decision to buy 50 hectares of coastal land in Nur city and hand it over to the people.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF RIOTER

LD130938Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued by the government today:

According to available reports, on Wednesday, 11 May, a number of rioters attacked law enforcement officers on one of the streets in Qom and, on being chased, fled to the house of one of the ayatollahs [Shi'ite moslem clergyman]. The law enforcement officers, who were not local officials and thus did not recognize the sanctity of his house, entered the dwelling in pursuit of the rioters with the aim of apprehending them.

The rioters continued to shout antinational slogans and to resist the officers. As a result, two individuals were wounded in this house, one of whom subsequently died.

The government expresses deep regret for this unpleasant incident caused by antinational rioters.

AFP: SECURITY FORCES OCCUPY TEHERAN UNIVERSITY

TA151105Y Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 15 May 78 TA

[Text] Teheran, May 15 (AFP)--Armed security forces occupied Teheran University and evicted students today while armoured cars manned strategic points in the capital as anti-government effervescence continued on the eve of the shah's scheduled departure for Eastern Europe.

The streets of the capital were virtually free of traffic after motorists were warned that demonstrators would attack them.

Riot police armed with canes and shields chased the students from the campus into the streets where renewed clashes occurred, according to reports.

Earlier the students announced plans to hold a peaceful rally at noon to ask the chancellor to withdraw expulsion orders against about 150 students.

Minutes before the rally was to start, a motorcycle decorated with Iranian flags moved around the campus relaying pro-regime slogans. About 2,000 students making for the rally were intercepted by riot squads, reports said.

No casualty figures were available on today's clashes.

Over the past week antigovernment incidents have been reported in several major cities. About 100 people were arrested here for taking part in demonstrations.

GUILD UNIONS: PUNISH SEDITIONISTS PROMPTLY

LD121036Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 12 May 78 LD

[Text] Following the publication of the government statement on punishing seditionists, the heads of 145 guild unions in the capital expressed revulsion today against recent incidents and called on the government to punish the seditionists promptly. The statement issued by the guilds in the capital says: The government should not permit a handful of colonialist dupes to undermine the realm's political stability and security by fomenting sedition and disorder.

WORKERS CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST SEDITION, VIOLENCE

LD131117Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0200 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Following the government statement on the legal prosecution of seditionists, the Iranian Workers Organization, in a statement endorsing government measures, announced: Full security is needed in order to attain economic and industrial progress in the country.

In its statement, the Iranian Workers Organization, which embraces 3 million Iranian workers, called on the government to act decisively and unremittingly against the sedition and violence perpetrated by a small minority who squander national riches through their attacks on public establishments and cultural and economic organizations.

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU HOLDS TALKS WITH SHAH IN TEHERAN

LD142005Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian president, and his wife arrived in Teheran tonight, on their way to Peking, for a brief meeting with the shah and the empress. The aircraft carrying the Romanian president and his wife landed at Mehrabad Airport at 2145 and the distinguished guests were greeted there by the Imperial Court Minister Amir-Abbas Hoveyda, Foreign Minister Abbas'Ali Khal'atbari, Commerce Minister Khosrowshahi, Imperial Court Grand Master of Ceremonies Amir-Aslan Afshar and several foreign diplomats accredited to the Imperial Court.

Our correspondent reports that Ceausescu and his wife left the airport directly for Niavaran Palace for a meeting with the shah and empress. PARS News Agency reports that the talks began between the shah and President Ceausescu at 2200 and lasted until 2330. At the same time, Mme Ceausescu held talks with the empress.

Leaves for Peking

LD142008Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1925 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Romanian president and his wife left Teheran for Peking after their meeting with the shah and the empress.

BRIEFS

IRAN-NORWAY COOPERATION--The second session of the joint commission of Iran and Norway for economic and technical cooperation ended with the signing of a protocol. The protocol was signed on behalf of Iran by the under secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in charge of investment and foreign aid, and the deputy minister of commerce and shipping signed for Norway. On the basis of this protocol, Iran and Norway agree, in order to increase the volume of trade between the two countries, to establish contacts between the export promotion and chambers of commerce and industry organizations of the two countries and also to exchange trade delegations. In the field of industry, the two sides agree to cooperate in the manufacturing of metal products, the construction of mobile power plants as well as in the chemical and paint industry and in the transfer of technology. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 May 78 LD]

AIR LINK WITH SPAIN--A high-ranking Spanish delegation led by the acting head of the Spanish civil aviation organization arrived in Teheran today to sign an air transport agreement. Thus far the air link between the two countries has been maintained by indirect flights but after the signing of this agreement, the link between the two countries will be direct and according to a schedule. It is expected that the signing of this air agreement between the Spanish state and Iran will establish a very favorable basis for the development of a tourist industry between the two countries. The agreement will soon be initialed in Teheran and, after ratification, the airline at issue will practically become an international one. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 10 May 78 LD]

PETROLEUM EXPORT FIGURES--A spokesman for the National Iranian Oil Corporation (NIOC) announced that exports of crude oil and oil products since 21 March 1978 have been as follows: sale to the consortium member trade companies of over 2.7 million barrels per day; direct NIOC sale of light and heavy crude oil of over 1.19 million barrels per day; direct sales of the products of related companies by the NIOC of 219,000 barrels per day; exports of NIOC products; 165,000 barrels per day; and total direct sales by NIOC, including crude oil and its products, of 1.5 million barrels per day. In this way Iranian exports of crude oil and of oil since 21 March 1978 have reached 4.6 million barrels per day. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 10 May 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI RECEIVES REPRESENTATIVES OF TRIBES

JN152027Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received the representatives of the tribes of (Bani Kheyl), (Taji Kheyl), (Hanji Kheyl), (Ahmad Zayuk), (Seyf 'Ali), (Beyt 'Ali), and (Kabul Kheyl) from (Wazirestan) at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council at 1400 on Thursday.

At this meeting, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister explained the goals of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in achieving the well-being of the people of this country. Two of the sheikhs from (Wazirestan) observed that the noble goals of the revolution of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are in line with the principles of Islam. They asked Almighty God to fulfill the goals.

TARAKI RECEIVES MINORITY RELIGIOUS SECT'S DELEGATES

LD141900Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], received a group of compatriots from the Ghorjestan of Hazarajat at the Revolutionary Council headquarters this morning. [The Hazarah people are mainly followers of the Shi'i sect of Islam; the orthodox Sunni sect is dominant in Afghanistan.] The president of the Revolutionary Council said: In accordance with the main points of our revolutionary duties, our policy regarding all the ethnic groups and nationalities residing in our [word indistinct] homeland, Afghanistan, is based on equal rights and [?opposition] to all forms of oppression and discrimination.

Nur Mohammad Taraki, while giving a detailed explanation on the DRA's sacred revolutionary aims, said: By implementing these aims, a new Afghanistan, an Afghanistan free of discrimination and social oppression and, eventually, a blossoming, free and prosperous Afghanistan will come about. [passage indistinct]

Reciprocally, the Hazarah compatriots--that is, [word indistinct] of our free and hard-working people--expressed their pleasure at the national and democratic revolution of the country to the president of the Revolutionary Council and further expressed their support, solidarity and willingness to make sacrifices for the realization of the aims of the revolution on behalf of their people.

The meeting between Nur Mohammad Taraki and the Hazarah compatriots from Ghorjestan took place in a pleasant atmosphere and lasted from 0830 until 0930 today.

KABUL RADIO SAYS DECREE NO 1 WELL RECEIVED

LD141730Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Decree No 1 of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] concerning the implementation, on an equal basis, of the flour ration coupon and cash meal allowances programs for government employees, contract employees and workers, has been given a tremendous welcome by the workers, contract employees, wage earners, intellectuals and all patriots in general. The Bakhtar correspondents report from the capital and from the provinces that workers, wage earners and employees have presented many letters to the ministries and their places of employment praising the benevolent and outstanding measure of the government. The letters say these measures are a sign of the sublime aims and main policy of the revolutionary duties of the Government of the DRA which is the materialization of democracy in its real sense in the country.

JUSTICE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON PRISON TREATMENT

LD141925Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 May 78 LD/BK

[Ministry of Justice statement]

[Summary] Because the prisons, detention and custody centers were administered under conditions which violated human dignity, due to the oppression of Daud's corrupt regime which had little respect for the rights and dignity of the individual, all forms of cruelty and oppression were employed on many innocent and defenseless prisoners. In order to study the situation of the prisoners and make improvements in the prisons, the Ministry of Justice has appointed authoritative committees composed of judges, attorneys and representatives of the Interior Ministry to carry out immediate studies on the situation in Kabul's Dehmazang Prison [mainly for political prisoners] and the Kabul province detention and custody centers.

The committees will have the power "to make necessary and feasible proposals on pardoning or reducing the punishment of the prisoners who are ill and destitute and who may be responsible for maintaining a family or (?suffer) from similar difficulties." Similarly, the committees shall make recommendations on improvements in the prisons to be implemented by the government. Similar studies will be carried out on the situation in other prisons in the provinces of Afghanistan.

FINANCE MINISTRY URGES PEOPLE TO SAVE, INVEST

LD152005Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] A statement by the Ministry of Finance reassures the people that their assets, savings and deposits with the banks are "perfectly safe without reservation" and urges the people to open bank accounts and deposit their savings with the banks not noly in their own interest but also in the interest of the "national economy." The statement further urges exporters and importers to deal with the banks for their foreign exchange transactions. Another part of the statement says: "Transactions and accounts with the banks are confidential and will not be disclosed." It again urges the people to open bank accounts and deposit their savings with them in order to "help themselves as well as the homeland's national economy and the regular financial processes of the dear Democratic Republic of Afghanistan." Any idle capital held by the people and "any unnatural money transactions conducted against the national interest will be regarded as contrary to the principles of the revolution," concludes the statement.

KABUL RADIO TO BROADCAST IN ETHNIC LANGUAGES

LD1600042Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 May 78 LD/BK

[Text] In order to develop literature, art, education and publications in the mother tongue of the ethnic nationalities living in Afghanistan, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has decided for the time being to braodcast programs in the Uzbek, Turkmen, Baluchi and Nurestani languages.

INDIA

DESAI: GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE ACTION AGAINST MRS GANDHI

BK1513172Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 May 78 BK

[Text] The government has decided to initiate action on the Shah Commission's findings which have been accepted by it. This was disclosed in the memorandum of action which was presented to the Lok Sabha this afternoon by the prime minister along with the first two interim reports of the Shah Commission. The commission indicted Mrs Gandhi for imposition of the emergency and found her guilty of gross misuse of power and authority in several cases.

The members of the ruling party and those of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] applauded as the prime minister rose to present the commission's report. Immediately afterwards, the leader of the opposition, Mr C. N. Stephen, read out a prepared statement in which he described the report as an instrument of political vendetta. He also spoke of a mass movement against the report. The prime minister took serious objection to the insinuations by Mr Stephen against the government. Giving a stern warning to the Congress-I, Mr Desai said that if they indulged in violence on the pretext of taking the report to the people, the government will not hesitate to take appropriate action. Janata and CPI-M members loudly cheered the prime minister's statement.

The Shah Commission has said that the decision to impose the emergency in 1975 was a desperate bid by Mrs Indira Gandhi to save herself from the implications of a judicial verdict against her. The commission observed that there was no threat to the nation from forces external or internal.

In the case of the unlawful detention of textiles and customs employees by the Delhi administration, the Shah Commission has observed that Mrs Gandhi abused her authority to get 12 officers detained without adequate justification. It observed that Mr P. S. Binder, former DIG [Deputy Inspector General], Delhi Police, and Mr B. Sen, the then director of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], grossly abused their authority in the case.

About the arrests in Delhi after the declaration of emergency, the commission held that the actions taken by the authorities under Mrs Gandhi's direction were not supported by any law. Since these illegal orders were issued on her direction, responsibility for them must primarily rest on her.

The commission also found that Mrs Gandhi abused her position and authority in the case of reversion of Mr Justice Aggarwal of the Delhi High Court and the refusal to extend the term of Mr Justice U. R. Lalit of the Bombay High Court.

About the demolitions in Delhi during the emergency, the commission says the manner in which they were carried out is an [word indistinct] story of illegality, callousness and (?sick offenses) by senior officers to play to the whims and fancies of Mr Sanjay Gandhi. The commission is of the view that Mr Gandhi was the prime mover in a majority of the illegal demolitions.

NEPAL

KING SPEAKS TO NATION, DEPARTS ON VISIT TO JAPAN

BK141624Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 May 78 BK

[Text] Earlier, their majesties were given a warm sendoff at Tribhuvan airport on their departure for Peking. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented guard of honor to his majesty the king at Tribhuvan International Airport. A 31-gun salute also boomed in the air on the occasion. Their majesties the king and queen were given a warm sendoff by the chairman of the Council of Royal Representatives, His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra and other members of the royal family. Her Royal Highness Princess (name indistinct) is accompanying their majesties the king and queen on the visit. The royal entourage also includes Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal and [words indistinct]. Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista, Chief Justice Mr Lal Bahadur Khatri, Rashtriya Panchayat [National Assembly] Chairman Mr Ram Hari Sharma and other distinguished persons from all walks of national life were also present on the occasion.

Prior to his departure, his majesty the king, in a message to the nation, has expressed the hope that the present state visit to Japan will further strengthen the bilateral relations between Nepal and Japan on the basis of mutual understanding. In the message, his majesty said: Although relatively a small country, Japan, through its [word indistinct] and industry no less than through its desire to learn from the latest techniques of others from the world over, has been able to maintain its independence and a strong identity of its own in the world of today, and I feel that this country of Asia can be a source of some inspiration to all of us.

His majesty further said: As usual we have constituted a council of royal representatives under the chairmanship of our brother His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah to discharge duties on our behalf in our absence. The Council of Ministers will carry on the day-to-day functions of the state in accordance with the policies and work of the (?motherland). Finally, his majesty hoped that the countrymen would transfer their love to the development work [words indistinct] upholding the good of Nepal and [words indistinct].

PAKISTAN

PRO-BHUTTO NEWSPAPER EDITOR REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

OW111945Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1934 GMT 11 May 78 OW

[Text] Rawalpindi, May 11 (AFP)--Editor and publisher of the Urdu language newspaper TAMEER, Bashirul Usmani, was arrested today, reliable sources said. The newspaper supports jailed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Mr Usmani had gone into hiding about two months ago when cases were registered against him for alleged violation of some martial law regulations. He had reappeared in his office yesterday following a report published by his own paper that the authorities had withdrawn the charges.

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